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Paratrooper trains troops in major military exercise

By Adam Flinn

A WANTAGE paratrooper has been helping train troops in Georgia as part of a major international exercise, which has drawn anger from Russia in the past.

Corporal Caz Laycock, 31, of C (Bruneval) Company, 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was one of almost 3,000 soldiers from eight countries taking part in the fortnight-long Exercise Noble Partner.

He travelled to the Vaziani military base near the Georgian capital Tbilisi, where paratroopers swapped techniques on carrying out vehicle check points and searching people.

The regiment also conducted joint training with the US Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade to further their understanding of each other's kit and capabilities.

Cpl Laycock, a former King Alfred's Academy pupil who has been in the Army for 12 years, said that working with different armies was about "finding a middle ground".

He continued: "I gave a lesson to the Georgians about vehicle check points and they were engaged and asked lots of questions, then they demonstrated their techniques to us.

"It's about each of us looking at our slightly different tactics to deal with the same situation and learning from each other."

Exercise Noble Partner aims to develop the ability of NATO armies to better work together in emerging crises, while training Georgian troops to serve with the NATO Response Force.

However the exercise has drawn a hostile reaction from Russia in the past, with the country's foreign ministry describing last year's manoeuvres as a "provocative step aimed at destabilising the region".

A total of 2,800 soldiers took part in the exercise, 160 coming from C (Bruneval) Company.

The company's commanding officer Major Mark Bush said: "Exercise Noble Partner is a fantastic opportunity, both for the company and for our paratroopers as individuals, which we're working hard to make the most of.

"Georgia is a hot and dry environment that's a test of physical resilience, while working as part of a multinational exercise on this scale really broadens soldiers' military and cultural horizons.

"While working with our allies and partners we are learning all the time about how different armies conduct their business – and they're learning about us, which will make us all better prepared for coalition operations in the future."

The exercise concluded with the paratroopers jumping into a 72-hour mission for the multinational force to practice defensive operations.

Corporal Caz Laycock, left, conducting the exercise in Georgia

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Advertising - 01235 511700
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Newsdesk - 01235 516931
news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Group Editor:
Karen Neville
01235 516931
karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Chief Reporter:
Adam Flinn
01235 516933
adam@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Reporters:
George Welch
01235 516912
george@taylornewspapers.co.uk
Samantha McGregor
01235 516908
sam@taylornewspapers.co.uk
Eva Astreinidou
01235 516932
eva@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Distribution & Subscriptions
01235 516903
distribution@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Accounts - 01235 516911
accounts@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Production - 01235 516934
studio@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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City is charging towards cleaner greener future

By George Welch

OXFORD is to help drive the world to a greener and petrol-less future by installing electric vehicle charging points across the city.

The city and county councils have joined forces to install 100 charging points in what is believed to be the largest on-street charging trial in the world.

Oxford motorists could help shape international policy, with Oxford University reporting to the government how the new technology is being used.

University chiefs said the scheme has 'global scientific significance'.

The trial is starting with 30 stations which will come online in October and be available to use for 12 months.

Ten of these will be available for the general public, 10 for Oxford's Co-wheels Car Club vehicles, and the remaining 10 for individual households.

The leader of Oxfordshire County Council, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, said: "The pilot element of the project is a learning experience – identifying the best charging solutions for different situations and locations and using our assets in better, smarter ways will help minimise costs.

"We hope to take what we have learnt from this project and look at how we can support on street charging across the whole of Oxfordshire."

The city council chose the charging locations after calling for Oxford residents who either owned or wanted to own an electric vehicle to come forward.

Leader of Oxfordshire County Council Ian Hudspeth testing out the technology in Littlemore, Oxford

Twenty volunteers will provide feedback on the chargers as part of the trial.

According to Cllr John Tanner, the city council's board member for a Clean and Green Oxford, the project "will help us prepare for the future" as, by 2027, more people are expected to be buying electric cars than petrol or diesel.

The Green Party's leader on the city council, Cllr David Thomas, welcomed the announcement.

He said: "It has taken some time, but Oxford is finally entering the age of the electric vehicle.

"This new infrastructure will encourage more electric vehicle ownership, which will help tackle Oxford's appalling air quality issues and reduce carbon emissions."

The trial could also result in the expansion of the city's Co-wheels Car Club, which provides members with low emission, hybrid and electric cars on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Managing director Richard Falconer described the project as "a brilliant opportunity" for people to reduce the impact on the environment by using a zero emission car.

Extra buses being introduced to routes running across West Oxfordshire

MORE buses are set to run in West Oxfordshire from this Sunday, Stagecoach has announced.

Three routes will see more services run, with changes also being made to four others.

The Gold S1 between Carterton, Witney, Eynsham and Oxford will have extra evening, morning and Sunday buses, while the Gold S2 will also make an extra journey from Carterton on weekday and Saturday evenings.

The 233 connecting Burford, Carterton, Minster Lovell, Witney, Long Hanborough and Woodstock will now run every 30 minutes Mondays to Saturdays, along with later journeys in both directions.

Timetable changes have also been made to the S7, 15 and 19 routes, while the 11 will see additional school day journeys introduced.

Martin Sutton, Stagecoach Oxfordshire's managing director, said: "The timetables for many of our services in West Oxfordshire will change with extra evening and Sunday buses on service S1 to meet the increase in demand expected with the opening of the new Westgate Centre.

"We wanted to make the improvements in time for the new school and college terms, and ensure we're prepared for the Westgate opening, which happens in October."

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Scientist's flower image highlights heart disease

AN Oxford University scientist has been named as the runner-up in an image competition highlighting the research done by the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Dr Nicoletta Surdo's image Flower from the heart was deemed by judges of BHF's Reflections of Research competition to be this year's second most impressive photograph.

It depicts the muscle fibres that make up the chambers of a mouse's heart, with the fibres transformed into the likeness of a rose using fluorescent dyes.

Dr Surdo and her team are studying heart failure as part of efforts to find a cure, with the hope that understanding more about the molecules involved in heart failure will allow new drugs to be developed.

Another of Dr Surdo's images, 'Butterfly in a cell', was highly commended, with the magnetic photograph showing a mirrored image of a mitochondria in a living mouse.

Simon Gillespie, chief executive of the BHF, said: "Science relies increasingly on ever more sophisticated imaging techniques to help us to see the cellular and molecular processes that conspire to create disease.

"So whilst this competition is all about the picture, it's the story behind each one that will save and transform lives."

Dr Nicoletta Surdo's images – Flower from the Heart, above and below, Butterfly in a cell

Tower-ing success!

A sell-out crowd of 9,000 music lovers flocked to Thame Showground for the 53rd annual Towersey Festival over the bank holiday weekend.

Headliners KT Tunstall, Newton Faulkner, Show of Hands and Eliza Carthy and The Wayward Band entertained festival goers on the music stages across the four days.

There was also a tribute to Paul Simon's Graceland album by The Gary Stewart Band, a performance from visiting US trio The Sweet Water Warblers, and a late night stint from comedian Rob Deering, who comes from nearby Tetsworth.

One of the headline acts – Eliza Carthy, accompanied by The Wayward Band
Picture: *Phil Sofer*

Away from the music stages the Towersey Tales storytelling tent, children's entertainment, and the now traditional final light lantern procession attracted the crowds.

"We've been extremely lucky with the weather this year, and we're delighted that so many people enjoyed the festival," said festival director Joe Heap.

"All our venues have been packed, especially the Festival Dance House where we've hosted wall-to-wall ceilidhs and even a roller disco.

"The atmosphere has been brilliant and we've seen some incredible performances."

Tickets are already on sale for next year's festival, which is due to take place between Friday, August 24 and Monday, August 27. Go to towerseyfestival.com.

A Lidl store would go a long way

By Eva Astreinidou

SUPERMARKET chain Lidl is asking for views on a potential new store that could fill a gap in the market while creating 40 jobs in Wallingford.

The public are invited to attend a consultation day on September 20 to hear about plans for the new store on Hithercroft Road, which could rival Waitrose, currently the only supermarket in the town.

Lidl's property team will be on hand to outline the plans and answer any questions from the community at the event at The Regal Centre on Goldsmith's Lane.

The company hopes to submit a planning application next month.

Lidl UK's regional head of property, Jeremy Lee, said: "We are extremely excited about the prospect of opening a [store] in Wallingford and serving our fresh, quality and incredibly good value produce which shoppers across the country have come to love.

"We look forward to welcoming anyone along to the public consultation day and showcasing our plans whilst answering any questions."

The multi-million pound investment would feature a 2,100m² store with an in-store bakery and parking for both cars and bicycles.

The announcement comes after the town's neighbourhood planning committee met officials from Lidl last month to discuss the potential for a new food store in the area.

The store in Wallingford would add to Lidl's existing portfolio of 670 shops.

More than 250 local shoppers have signed a petition to ensure the outline plans for the new store go ahead.

In signing the petition, many local residents said they currently have to travel outside of the town for alternative and 'cheaper' food shops.

Tracey Wibberley, from Goring, said: "Would be amazing to have a reasonably-priced supermarket and would reduce carbon footprint as more people would travel less [of a] distance." Alice Walton said: "Wallingford needs this."

To view the petition, visit www.gopetition.com/petitions/support-lidl-in-wallingford.html.

InBrief

Roar on the boats

THE 19th annual Abingdon Dragon Boat Festival will take place on Sunday.

The event, hosted on the River Thames at Abingdon Bridge, promises to be as exciting as ever with lots of teams signed up to take part, many of whom will be in fancy dress.

Spectators can look forward to a variety of attractions including children's entertainment, a real ale bar and food stalls.

Entry is free and racing starts around 11am.

For details, go to abingdondragonboats.org.uk.

Asda set to open

OCTOBER 30 has been confirmed as the opening date for Asda's £4.3million store in Didcot.

A total of 35 jobs will be created at the Great Western Park store, which will be open from 7am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sundays.

Store managers Darren Lambert and Michael Powell said: "We're looking forward to becoming part of the Didcot community."

Converters stolen

TWO catalytic converters have been stolen from Honda Accord vehicles in Faringdon.

The thefts occurred at some point between 4pm on Saturday, July 29 and 2pm on Monday, July 31.

One car was parked in Marlborough Street, the other in Stanford Road.

Contact police on 101 with information.

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Cars targetted at beauty spots

By Eva Astreinidou

A MAN has been given a five-year criminal behaviour order after stealing from cars in south Oxfordshire beauty spots.

Simon Parker, 26, of Middle Park Way, Hampshire, admitted seven thefts from vehicles in lay-bys and car parks.

Cars were targetted in White Horse Hill, Blowing Stone Hill, Chain Hill, Sparsholt Firs and Childrey.

On October 30 last year, a car owner spotted two men looking into a parked vehicle near Chain Hill and recorded their number plate. A few days later on November 3, the same car spotted at Chain Hill was seen near the site of break-ins.

Officers tracked down and arrested two men after the car was seen on the A338 East Hanney.

Items stolen from the vehicles included model birds, bank cards, satnavs, binoculars and Barbour jackets.

Parker pleaded guilty to the offences at Banbury Magistrates' Court on July 5 this year. After he was charged in May, he failed to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on June 6 and will have to pay an additional £30 due to this.

Simon Parker has been given a CBO

The criminal behaviour order means he is prohibited from entering any car park owned or leased by the National Trust as well as touching any unattended vehicle without permission in the county.

He will also have to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work in the next 12 months and has been ordered to pay £210, £30 each, to the affected car owners.

Co-defendant, Edward Butler, 42, of no fixed address, was issued with an eight-month jail term for multiple offences in May.

Following the sentencing, one of the victims whose vehicle was broken into said: "My friends wouldn't even go dog walking with me with that coat, I never thought anyone would cause so much damage in order to steal it."

Paying tribute to soldiers at the Somme

AN RAF Benson serviceman has set off on an epic cycling challenge to commemorate the soldiers who fell during the Battle of the Somme in the First World War.

Paul Whitelegge started the Ride to the Somme yesterday. Riders will cycle between 160 and 230 miles through Belgium and northern France.

It has been organised in tribute to troops in the Army Cyclist Corps who served along the Western Front between 1914 and 1918.

Money is being raised for armed forces charity SSAFA, and 38-year-old Paul, who has served in the RAF for the last 15 years as a helicopter engineer, has already managed to raise more than £1,400.

He said: "Since returning from Afghanistan in April, I have ridden over 1,000 miles in an attempt to prepare for this event, including riding 125 miles in the Cotswolds.

"I now feel ready to take on this challenge and help anyone along the way if I can.

"I decided to raise money for SSAFA. As a serving member of the RAF, I am aware of the great work they do for servicemen past and present and how they can help in a time of need."

Paul is due to finish on Sunday. To donate, go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulWhitelegge.

InBrief

Grant funding

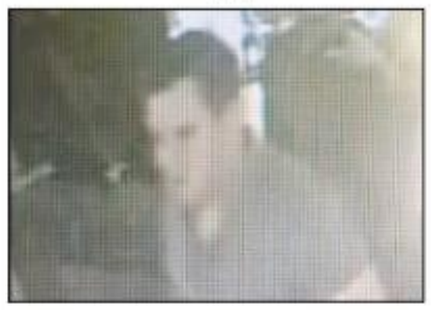
COMMUNITY groups can apply for a share of cash from a £175,000 grant to fund community projects.

The Vale of White Horse District Council is offering cash to help 'communities thrive'.

The current round of applications closes on October 15 at 4pm and awards will be confirmed within 12 weeks.

Visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants.

Witness appeal



POLICE believe this man may hold 'vital information' about an 'unprovoked' attack in Henley that left a teenager in hospital.

At around 1.30am on June 18 the victim, an 18-year-old man, was out with his friends at Magoos Bar on Hart Street when an unknown man approached him.

The man struck the victim's head down onto a table causing deep cuts and a hospital visit.

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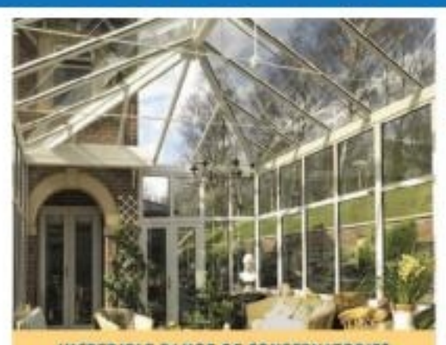
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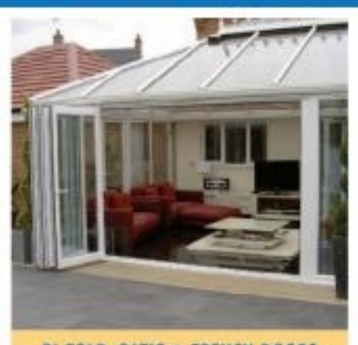
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News

Wonder of wildlife caught on camera

FANCY trying to capture a rhino's best side or a peacock with it's tail feathers on display?

Now is the time to show off your skills as Cotswold Wildlife Park launches its annual photography competition.

This year's competition is asking for keen photographers to submit entries by January 2018 for categories that include marvellous mammals, beautiful birds, amazing amphibians or reptiles, and gorgeous gardens.

The winners in each category will win an animal adoption and have their photo turned into a canvas and displayed in the park's restaurant.

The overall winners of both the adult and children's competitions will win a season ticket to the park.

This comes as several Oxfordshire residents were announced as runners-up in the 2017 competition for successfully capturing the theme 'natural instincts' which attracted more than 1,000 entries.

Julie Dickson, from Kidlington, was second place winner in the adult category with her entry 'Little Foot, Big Foot'.

Runner-up was Ben Flynn from Faringdon, who captured a majestic feline taking some time out with an entry featuring a lioness yawning.

But it was not just the adults who were recognised for their talent, as Emma Aitkin from Abingdon was a runner-up in the child category with her picture of a troop of ring-tailed lemurs.

Wayne Bailey, from Swindon, was crowned winner of the competition for his photo of a stunning pair of blue and yellow macaws.

For more information about next year's competition, go to tinyurl.com/yccm467g

Second place in the adult category went to Julie Dickson from Kidlington for Little Foot, Big Foot. Below, Emma Aitkin was a runner-up in the younger section with her image of ring-tailed lemurs

The winning entry from Wayne Bailey of a pair of macaws

Ben Flynn from Faringdon was a runner up with his picture of a lioness yawning

Three cases a week referred to police

Report child abuse when you suspect it

By Adam Flinn

AN average of three reports of child neglect are being referred to police and social services in Oxfordshire every week by the NSPCC.

The child protection charity said its helpline dealt with 162 reports in this way following contact from concerned adults in the county between April 2016 and March 2017 in figures published last week.

This was on top of a further 28 contacts requesting advice about a child thought to be facing neglect.

The findings have been revealed in the NSPCC's report 'How safe are our children?', which calls on the government to commission a study into the extent of child neglect and abuse across the UK.

Peter Wanless, chief executive of the NSPCC, said: "Neglect can have severe and long-lasting consequences for children, and can also be an indicator of other forms of abuse.

"This is why it is so important for anyone suspecting a child of being neglected to contact the NSPCC helpline, so we can alert the authorities to quickly step in and help those in need."

Common signs of neglect the NSPCC urges people to look out for include being left alone for a long time, untreated injuries, and living in an unsuitable home environment.

One family member of a suspected neglected child, who didn't want to be named, said: "I am concerned for the safety of a little boy, he does not seem to be getting adequate care at home.

"His mother doesn't seem interested in looking after him. He is regularly being left unsupervised and I am worried that he could seriously hurt himself at home alone, because I know it has happened before."

Mr Wanless added: "At the same time, it is vital we understand the true nature and scale of child neglect in the UK so we can collectively tackle the fundamental causes.

"Therefore, a government commissioned, nationwide prevalence study on child abuse and neglect needs to be conducted and sooner rather than later."

Bobbie South, back left, and Sheena Gow, back right, at the Hill's temporary premises with some of the young people who attend the community centre

Centre's £5k gift to carry on

A COMMUNITY centre has received a £5,000 donation to allow them to continue providing essential activities to residents during its rebuild.

The Hill Youth and Community Centre, in Bretch Hill, will be demolished and replaced with a new facility as part of an £800,000 revamp.

But the funding from social landlord Sanctuary Housing has enabled the facility to temporarily relocate.

The centre, which hosts a range of activities has now moved to the Bradley Arcade shopping parade until the new centre is completed.

The Hill has been providing a reduced programme since the roof of its main hall was damaged in 2013.

Sanctuary has donated land for a community garden and provided outside facilities, including football nets and a play area for small children.

Neighbourhood partnerships manager Kate Winstanley said: "We've been supporting The Hill for a number of years now and have seen the positive effect the groups have on all those who attend, we're delighted to have been able to provide them with £5,000 to continue this during their temporary move."

Cherwell District Council, which owns the building, will contribute £400,000, with the remaining funding coming from Sport England, local charities and groups.

Cllr Kieron Mallon, the council's lead member for brighter futures in Banbury, said: "We are grateful to Sanctuary for their generous donation. This will help us to continue to provide activities to the community while work on the new centre takes place."

InBrief

Fatal collision

AN 18-YEAR-OLD man has died after his motorcycle collided with a lamppost on the A4129 Tythrop Way in Thame on Monday.

It happened at around 4.35pm near the skate park, and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin has been informed.

Police are now appealing for witnesses to find out what happened.

Investigating officer Sergeant Julie Caulfield said: "If anyone saw this incident, I would ask them to get in touch. I am particularly keen to speak to anyone who was at the skate park at the time."

Call 101, quoting reference number 977 (28/8).

Get ready for bunk

BUNKFEST is returning to Wallingford for its 16th year this weekend.

The free family festival from Friday to Sunday will provide entertainment and activities for all ages, including boat and train trips, workshops, and a street fair.

Dance teams will take over the streets of the town, and there will be a music line-up of over 80 artists.

The town centre roads will be closed to all traffic from 7am to 7pm on Saturday and 7am to 6pm on Sunday for the street fair.

For more information, visit www.bunkfest.co.uk.

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News

Praise for school in latest report

A PRIMARY school near Wantage has been praised for its "outstanding leadership and management" following its latest inspection.

St Nicholas Primary School in East Challow was given an overall rating of 'good' by inspectors from SIAMS, the Anglican and Methodist schools' equivalent of Ofsted.

Inspectors highlighted the "vision, passion and drive" of the headteacher Andrew Browne and staff to create a nurturing school community, and that families feel supported.

Areas to improve included developing pupils' understanding of Christianity, and providing opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship.

Philip Harrison, chairman of the school's local governing body, said: "We are obviously delighted with the outcome of this report. It is an accurate reflection of our wonderful school, our children and parents, our staff and our very supportive community.

"Our priests John Durant and Alec Gill and the hugely popular Open the Book team from St Nicholas Church play an important part in the life of the school, and we are lucky to enjoy the energy they bring to sharing the Bible stories with us."

St Nicholas is a member of the Vale Academy Trust, which is also responsible for King Alfred's Academy in Wantage, Larkmead School in Abingdon, and four other primaries.

'Something special' steams into station

Pictures: *National Railway Museum*

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of rail buffs enjoyed the bank holiday weekend by taking a ride on one of the world's most famous locomotives.

The Flying Scotsman was in action at Didcot Railway Centre on Saturday, Sunday and Monday providing rides in vintage carriages on the main demonstration line.

It's the first time the locomotive has visited Didcot since 2005 having only returned to action in January after a decade of major works.

Didcot Railway Centre's front of house manager Tim Nicholls described the bank holiday fun as a "fantastic weekend of entertainment".

Various other activities, including live music and a flypast, added to a memorable weekend – but nothing stole the limelight from the star of the show.

Commercial manager and trustee Ann Middleton, who was also the train guard for a VIP ride on Friday, said the Scotsman's visit is the highlight of her 32-year involvement at the museum.

She said: "It's fantastic to welcome the locomotive back – we are really thrilled.

"It's probably the most famous steam engine in the world. You can feel the power and it's nice to smell her."

She added: 'There was not so much interest shown last time because it was not as famous."

On Sunday and Monday one of the fastest steam locomotives ever, the Gresley A4 class Pacific 60009 Union of South Africa, made an appearance.

Mr Nicholls hopes the event will inspire future generations of rail fans.

He said: "We want people to see what we've got here and inspire them for a return visit or even volunteering and helping out in future.

"If the younger generation enjoy themselves so much they want to take up a career we can have them volunteering in our workshop.

"If people want this kind of thing to continue we need the younger generation to be involved.

"The centre is 50 years old this year and if it's going to last another 50 years the people who set it up aren't going to be around."

Speaking on Friday, Mr Nicholls added: "There's a tangible excitement in the air. There's a definite sense of 'this is something special'."

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Main picture, left, The Flying Scotsman lines up alongside the Gresley A4 class Pacific 60009 Union of South Africa
Picture: *Didcot Railway Centre*

20,000 Zambian orphans helped in student's name

By Adam Flinn

Cecily Eastwood helping out in Zambia

A CHARITY is marking 20 years of supporting orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia with a celebration in Witney this Saturday.

Cecily's Fund was set up on September 2, 1997 following the death of 19-year-old Cecily Eastwood, a student from Stonesfield, in a car accident in Zambia earlier that year.

Over the last 20 years the charity has helped improve the lives of more than 20,000 children by sending them to school, offering them training and delivering life-saving health information.

And on Saturday a celebration is being held at St Mary's Church to recognise the good work that's been done over the last two decades, and to remember Cecily.

Her mum Alison said: "Cecily would be so proud of what has been achieved.

"Her fund continues to give hope to children in Zambia who need it most."

Cecily had been teaching at a school in Zambia's Copperbelt region during her gap year when the accident happened. Part of her work saw her run homework clubs for orphans in her spare time.

Many of the children supported by Cecily's Fund have gone on to higher education, with some becoming teachers, business owners and engineers.

It is thanks to the efforts of more than 200 donors in Oxfordshire that the charity has managed to achieve this, from the initial £6,500 raised at Cecily's funeral in 1997.

Cheryl Hooper, director of Cecily's Fund, said: "It is a humbling testament to the human spirit that a tiny charity such as Cecily's Fund has transformed communities and given life-changing opportunities for orphans in Zambia from our small base in Witney.

"Over the last 20 years, the charity's work has resulted in helping over 20,000 orphans and vulnerable children get an education as a route out of poverty.

"None of this could be achieved without the loyalty of our hundreds of supporters, many who live in West Oxfordshire and who continue to believe in us."

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News

Adventures in photography

Exhibition to show Lewis Carroll's pictures of Alice as a woman

By George Welch

PHOTOGRAPHS of the girl who inspired Alice's Adventures in Wonderland will be exhibited alongside images of her as an older woman for the first time.

Oxford academic Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, photographed his neighbour Alice Liddell, daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, as a girl in the 1850s.

The mathematician also photographed her as an adult – and now the images of her as a child and as a woman have been brought together for the first time.

They will be shown in the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition Victorian Giants: The Birth of Art Photography.

Alice, who died in 1934 aged 82, was Carroll's muse for his 1865 fantasy novel Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Alice Liddell, pictured in 1958 and on June 25, 1870
Pictures: *National Portrait Gallery*

Phillip Prodger, head of photographs at the gallery, said: "Much has been written about the relationship between Carroll and Alice.

"We will never know exactly how Carroll himself felt about his subjects, and there is no doubt he developed deep personal attachments with many of his sitters.

"Nevertheless, Carroll nearly always photographed his children with their parents present, and no claims of impropriety were ever made in his lifetime.

"For Victorian artists, children represented the blank slate of humanity – the potential to experience pure thought and feeling before the corruptions of modern life intervened."

He added that Carroll helped "forever change the thinking about photography and its expressive power", saying: "These are pictures that inspire and delight."

The exhibition includes the work of Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-79), Oscar Rejlander (1813-75) and Lady Clementina Hawarden (1822-65) as well as Carroll (1832-98).

The exhibition in London runs from March 1 to May 20, 2018.

Dead dog discovered dumped in shopping trolley in stream

THE body of a dead dog has been found dumped on top of a shopping trolley in an Oxford stream.

A member of the public spotted the badly decomposing remains of the small dog near a bridge over Northfield Brook in Marjoram Close, Blackbird Leys, on August 14.

The dog was not microchipped and had no identification tag, and the RSPCA has begun an investigation to find out what happened.

RSPCA inspector Jaime Godfrey, who removed the dog from the stream, said: "When I arrived and saw the body it made me feel quite upset as the body was quite rotten and the smell was very unpleasant.

"It's not clear at this stage how this dog has died but it would have been very upsetting for anyone who saw him laid across the overturned shopping trolley in the stream.

"I'm concerned about the circumstances surrounding the dog's death and would like to hear from anyone who may know what has happened or where he has come from."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RSPCA's appeal line on 0300 123 8018.

InBrief

History on show

VISITORS to Abingdon can learn all about the town's heritage with a series of events being held over the coming week.

The annual Heritage Open Days returns on Saturday, with this year's theme being 'Made in Abingdon'.

A programme of walks, talks and exhibitions is planned up until next Sunday, September 10.

For full details, go to abingdonheritage.co.uk.

Council by-election

THREE candidates have put their name forward for the vacant seat on Didcot Town Council.

A by-election for the All Saints ward is due to be held next Thursday.

Jim Loder is standing for the Liberal Democrats, John Patching for the Conservatives, while Pam Siggers is the Labour candidate.

Fun of the fair

RURAL crafts, ferret racing and local food and drink will all be on offer at the Wychwood Forest Fair this Sunday.

Taking place at the Ducklington Showground near Witney, the fair is run by The Wychwood Project, a charity that aims to inspire people to conserve their local landscapes.

The fair is running from 11am to 5pm.

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News

Parliament hearing set for noise levels on A34

By Adam Flinn

A CAMPAIGN by residents living near the A34 in Wolvercote to reduce noise pollution from the road has been taken to parliament.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran has asked the transport secretary Chris Grayling to monitor noise levels between the Botley junction and Peartree flyover.

It comes two years after more than 700 people signed a petition urging Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council to back plans to install sound barriers along that stretch.

Ms Moran said: "People living in Wolvercote are understandably frustrated at the lack of action by Highways England – which is responsible for the management of the A34 – since they first raised the issue of noise disturbance.

"A professional survey of noise levels in neighbouring homes over a period of weeks and months would provide the evidence campaigners need to push Highways England to come up with a proper plan to tackle the problem.

Layla Moran MP has raised a question in parliament

"I'll continue to support local residents and to keep up the pressure on the Department for Transport and Highways England to act."

Wolvercote resident Rob Whitty submitted the petition to the two councils in the spring of 2015.

In his speech to the city council at the time, Mr Whitty described the "invasive noise that we face on a daily and nightly basis" and the "detrimental" effect it has on the health of Oxford residents.

Mr Whitty also estimated that the cost of installing the sound barriers at being in the region of £700,000.

Sound barriers have already been installed on the A34 through Botley, where a 50mph speed limit is also in place. They have also been built on parts of the M40 in south Oxfordshire.

Ms Moran's question in full is: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will monitor noise levels affecting residents living near the A34 in Wolvercote between the Peartree flyover and the Botley junction."

A formal response is expected from the Department for Transport sometime next month.

Market trader really knows his onions after 35 years on his stall

FRUIT and vegetable market trader Terry Hankins has been presented with a long trader award.

Mr Hankins was presented with a silver plate to mark 35 years as a trader last Tuesday, making him the longest serving trader at the weekly Tuesday charter market.

The award was presented by Mike Broun, chairman of Thame Market Traders Co-Operative, and the Mayor of Thame, Cllr Tom Wyse.

Youngsters put their minds into helping others

A YOUTH programme has raised over £1,600 to help prevent and tackle mental health issues.

The annual National Citizen Service (NCS) which runs over the summer holidays encourages youngsters to gain various skills including social action and this year the group worked with local charity Oxfordshire Mind.

As part of the project, NCS Abingdon delivered activities and outreach work, helping raise awareness and funds for the charity.

The students organised a week where they sold cakes at market stalls in Abingdon and Oxford, hosted a tea party, and started conversations around mental wellbeing with passers-by.

Oxfordshire Mind CEO, Dan

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Knowles, praised the students.

He said: "[We recognise] the significant deterioration in younger people's mental health in the UK and having local NCS groups start a conversation on mental wellbeing is a step in the right direction. We believe a rigorous preventative approach is required, and this is currently missing. We want to help people who are unwell – and we'd like even more to stop people getting ill.

"We are currently working with younger people, schools, parents and teachers to develop what we believe could be the best preventative programme in the country. The money raised will enable us to run pilot programmes in schools in Oxfordshire to improve the approach."

Under 25s urged to go out and exercise

YOUNG people in Oxfordshire have become the indoor generation, according to a recent survey.

The Hill End Trust report claims young people aged under 25 spend an average of only six to nine hours outside per week, while adults (25+) said they enjoyed the outdoors for at least 15 hours when they were children.

Even now older people spend less time sat in front of a screen, despite adults being more likely to use a screen all day, everyday for work.

The survey revealed that adults are in front of a screen for 15-20 hours a week compared to 20-30 hours for youngsters.

Further, only six in 10 young people 'strongly agreed' that spending time outdoors is enjoyable, compared to 79 per cent of over 25-year-olds.

Hill End CEO Selby Dickinson said: "These findings confirm a widely-felt trend that young people are adopting more indoor, sedentary lifestyles.

"It makes our role as one of the few access points to nature and 'the great outdoors' even more important."

The charity, which operates a 65-acre outdoor centre near Farmoor, commissioned the research to help shape its new strategy, having become an independent charity in July. It was previously run by Oxfordshire County Council.

Taking a brisk walk for 10 minutes every day is advised

Public Health England has claimed Oxfordshire's adults are at an unnecessary risk of cancer, heart disease and poor mental health because they're not exercising enough.

The report, released last week, claims just 23.4 per cent of over-18s in the county manage to clock up half an hour of heartbeat-raising exercise each week.

PHE has launched a campaign encouraging people to take a brisk 10 minutes walk every day.

InBrief

Rowing for disabled

THE Henley Regatta for the Disabled takes place this Saturday.

It is based out of the Phyllis Court Club in Marlow Road, with a host of attractions including bell boat racing, rowing machines, climbing wall, craft stalls and live music.

Gates open at 10am and entry costs £5, with carers and children under four going free. Go to regattaforthedisabled.org for details.

Wallet stolen

A WALLET containing bank cards has been stolen from a house in Oxford.

The burglary happened sometime between 10am and 6pm on Sunday at a property in Denmark Street.

It is believed someone snuck into the house through an open window while the occupant was upstairs and stole the wallet.

Thoughts on town?

ABINGDON Town Council is hosting two drop-in sessions to find out people's thoughts on how the town should develop over the next few years.

The first is taking place at the Abbey buildings this Tuesday from 4pm to 7pm, with another at the Preston Road Community Centre between 2pm and 4pm on September 16.

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Great Celebrations for Super Exam results across county

Students across Oxfordshire picked up their GCSE results last week, *George Welch* and *Eva Astreinidou* got out their pens and paper to find out how they did

Pupils from Burford School, right and Headington School's Nina Todres, Ella Gauci and Grainne Morgan wave their results joyfully

New GCSE grades explained

- The new numbered grades have only been used for English language, English literature and maths for this year
- They rank from nine (the highest grade) to one (the lowest grade), with U remaining as 'ungraded'
- Nine and eight can be considered the equivalent to an A* in the old system
- Seven to four cover the old A-C grades, with three, two and one reflective of a D, E, F or G
- The numbered system will gradually be introduced across all GCSE subjects, with them all expected to have made the switch in two years' time

PUPILS' sighs of relief could be heard all round Oxfordshire as they lined up to hear how they fared in their GCSEs.

Scores of secondary school pupils found out their exam results after five years of hard work amid changes to the grading system for some subjects.

English literature, English language and maths are now marked on a 9-1 basis, with 9 being the highest.

In Abingdon, Larkmead School celebrated its 'best ever' results.

Across English, maths, and science there was at least a 10 per cent increase in the number of students achieving a 9-4/A*-C grade.

In a statement last Thursday, a school representative said: "We are delighted to report that both our A-Level results and our GCSEs represent the school's best ever results both individually and combined."

Fitzharrys School, also in Abingdon, announced they achieved a new record with 63 per cent of pupils being awarded five or more A*-C grades, or 9-4 under the new system.

Further afield, in Oxford, pupils at Headington School celebrated 'impressive' results.

Out of 120 girls, 11 achieved 10 or more A*s, while an impressive 47 girls, nearly 40 per cent of the year group, achieved at least 10 A*s or As.

A total of 49.3 per cent of all grades were A*s, while over 80 per cent were at A* or A.

Headteacher Caroline Jordan said: "I am absolutely delighted for each of our girls, who have worked incredibly hard."

At west Oxfordshire's Burford School, the pupils celebrated results which put the school in the 'top 20 per cent of all schools nationally'.

Twenty-six per cent of all grades were A*/A, with 25 students achieving seven or more A*/A and 19 students achieving eight or more A*/A.

In addition, five students achieved 11 A*/A grades.

Headteacher Kathy Haig said: "The GCSE results this year are once again excellent and show the tremendous effort that our students have made.

"This is a particularly pleasing set of results as the new GCSEs in both English language and literature and maths, are so much more rigorous."

At Didcot-based UTC, 64 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths.

Owain Johns, the school principal, said: "We are extremely pleased with this first set of GCSE results. The exceptionally strong maths and separate science results reflect the hard work and dedication of both students and staff in attaining a robust and secure foundation for our pupils' secondary education."

Cabinet member for public health and education, Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles, said: "On results day it is our job to acknowledge the hard work and commitment that our young people routinely show, and the dedication of our teaching staff."

She added: "If you don't get the GCSE grades you're hoping for, or are simply not sure what to do next, you can rest assured there will be a place in learning guaranteed for you in September.

"Our simple message to young people is not to panic – there are plenty of opportunities out there."

Nationally, the number of GCSE entries receiving grade A (or 7 under the new system) or above has fallen 0.5 per cent compared with last year.

Cranford House girls were rewarded for their hard work with 'excellent' grades

We did it! Pupils jump for joy at results

PUPILS at Wallingford's Cranford House jumped with joy as they collected their 'exceptional results'.

The youngsters gathered to hear their long-awaited grades at the school last Thursday.

Seventeen girls from Wallingford and the surrounding villages amassed 161 passes between them, with almost 90 per cent of all grades being A*/B for a second year running.

Speaking on results day, headteacher Dr James Raymond said: "These are an excellent collection of results that reflect the hard work, dedication and determination of our fabulous Year 11s. We are very proud of them and they richly deserve all of their success."

In a statement, the school announced that they are 'pleased to enjoy continued strength in core subjects'.

Seventy-seven per cent of all grades in triple science were achieved at A*/A and the mathematicians achieved 31 per cent of all results at the new grade 8 or 9.

In modern foreign languages, pupils scored 98 per cent A*/B, with 68 per cent of grades at A*/A for all three languages.

In humanities, 67 per cent achieved A*/A and 71 per cent of music pupils achieved an A*/A.

Dr Raymond added: "This is a tremendous achievement, particularly for a non-selective school like ours which welcomes pupils of all abilities. I'm particularly pleased, in the context of the changes to the curriculum and grading in mathematics and English."

News

Impressive results all round

STUDENTS have been celebrating their hard work and determination with impressive GCSE results.

Last Thursday, pupils across the county ripped open envelopes containing their results delighting parents, teachers and themselves.

This year, some GCSE papers in England were graded numerically on a scale from 9 to 1.

Bicester's The Cooper School said 70 per cent of students achieved five or more 4+ grades, including English and Maths, the equivalent of the old A*-C.

And all GCSE students got five or more 1-9 grades, the same as A*-G.

Headteacher Ben Baxter said: "I am delighted at the success of our Year 11 students again. Despite the increasing demands of the new GCSES our students and staff have risen to the substantial challenges."

Among the successes was Tom Smythe who got one A**, eight A* and one A, Alice Daniel who received one A**, seven A*, two A, Macy Byfield who achieved one A**, five A*, four A, and Anna Webb, *pictured*, who achieved one A**, four A*, six A.

Banbury Academy said its "fantastic results" were "down to the sheer hard work and resilience of students and staff".

Twins Mary and Elizabeth achieved 19 grades at A and A* between them, and the music and textiles departments saw all students achieve A*-C grades.

Lord Williams's School, in Thame, said 73 per cent of students achieved five or more higher grades – the equivalent of A*-C including English and Maths.

Headteacher, David Wybron said: "The examinations are now harder and the changes imposed on schools have been introduced very hastily. These are new examinations and there aren't any benchmarks. However, what we can say, is that the overall results are very impressive and so many of our students have achieved outstanding results."

At Chipping Norton School, 41 students, more than a quarter of pupils sitting exams achieved five or more A*-A – the new measurement is 9-7 grades.

Headteacher Simon Duffy said: "These results reflect the real quality of our students and their teachers. Such outstanding outcomes do not occur by chance and the hard work that I have seen over the past two years has clearly paid off."

Nearby Kingham School said 48 per cent of pupils gained A* to A grades, and a school best was achieved when 71 per cent achieved A* to B and 91 per cent of pupils got A* to C grades.

Headmaster Nick Seward said the results were "a tremendous testament" to teachers and pupils.

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Pupil's dedication to study reaps results

Chinese student had to learn English first

STARTING at a new school is a daunting time for anyone – but for a girl who didn't speak a word of English this task was a little more frightening.

Xin Ying Chen admitted she was freaking out the day before enrolling at Didcot Girls' School three years ago, the same day after travelling nearly 6,000 miles from south eastern China.

The girl from Fujian, on the Chinese side of the Taiwan Strait, worked as hard as she possibly could, devoting three hours a day to learn English and even turning down a holiday back home to attend revision classes instead.

The 17-year-old was overjoyed when she opened her results slip on Thursday to discover her commitment had resulted in a grade 9, 2A* and 5As.

She said: "I was freaking out last night and I couldn't sleep but now I feel really happy and delighted. I even had a dream that I failed!"

Xin Ying Chen with exams manager Rebecca Keene

The Ladygrove resident, who will stay on to study A-Level maths, further maths and chemistry (and maybe physics), can now celebrate after a 'scary' three years.

She added: "I learnt some English in China but it's not useful and it was really formal so you can't use it. I was freaking out because I didn't know anyone and I couldn't communicate in English.

"It was scary and I had no friends. My biggest challenge was to get on with people and to learn something so different."

Xin Ying moved to Didcot with her parents, who set up the Sunrise Chinese takeaway in Broadway, when she was 14.

And her teachers couldn't contain their delight when she collected her results.

Deputy headteacher Tom Goodenough said: "It's remarkable, just unbelievable. It's a tribute to sheer hard work and commitment – she's put in 100 per cent since she arrived. She's a genuine inspiration."

Exams and admission manager Rebecca Keene added: "The first time I met Xin Ying was in reception the day after getting off the plane. We had to put quite a lot of support in for her because she didn't speak a word of English but she worked so hard."

A credit to the school

PUPILS at King Alfred's Academy celebrated top marks despite a 'challenging' climate of change, according to the school.

Teachers at the Wantage school waited in anticipation to see how their students would perform in the subjects marked under a new grading system and if they would progress into sixth form starting in September.

Headteacher Jo Halliday said: "All this success has been achieved during a time of huge transition at King Alfred's Academy, great turbulence in the education system and a year of personal challenge for many students and staff.

"They are a credit to the school and the community."

In figures published the same day, the school said that under the new grading system over 45 per cent of pupils were awarded an 8, otherwise a high A.

For GCSE English, one of the key courses in the new system, 73.5 per cent of students achieved the government's benchmark of grade 4 and above, while 68 per cent of students achieved that result in maths.

Ruth Harris, Harrison Goodman, Daisy Patto and below, Edward Record and Hannah Hooker

Overall, 61 per cent of students achieved grades in the 9-4 bracket in both maths and English.

In total 27 students achieved seven or more A or A* grades.

Students Benedict Hutchinson, Nathan Edwards, Harrison Goodman, Hannah Hooker, Freya Royan and Kate Strange all achieved more than four A* grades.

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News

£500k helps solar farm shine

By George Welch

A COMMUNITY-OWNED solar farm is powering ahead after securing a £500,000 cash boost.

Southill Solar, located in the grounds of the Cornbury Estate near Charlbury, will use the money loaned from the district council to fund its start-up costs.

With its 17,300 solar panels, the development, operated by Southill Community Energy, became operational last November and generates 4.5MW of energy.

This is enough to power 1,100 homes – equivalent to all the properties in its nearest parishes Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler.

Cllr Toby Morris, cabinet member for resources at West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This is an excellent investment – Southill Solar is ethical and owned by local shareholders as well as providing sustainable power for the next 25 years."

As well as generating green electricity the solar farm will also be planted with native plant species, including wildflowers, to attract wildlife, while a solar-powered beehive has already been introduced.

Tim Crisp, director at Southill Solar, said: "This financial support by WODC is a great example of a local authority partnering with community initiatives.

"It will help us deliver surplus funds to other low-carbon community projects faster than otherwise would have happened."

The council's cabinet member for the environment, Cllr Carol Reynolds said: "Southill Solar is a fantastic scheme with real benefits for the local community and the environment.

"We are delighted to be able to support it."

Southill Solar will be dismantled in 2041 following its 25-year lifespan and the land will be returned to its original agricultural state.

Last year Carterton Leisure Centre was fitted with solar panels as part of a £155,000 green scheme.

WODC said at the time that the scheme world raise nearly £160,000 in profits and reduce carbon emissions by 781 tonnes over 20 years.

Tim Crisp and WODC councillor Toby Morris at Southill Solar

New hope for treatment of schizophrenia sufferers

ORGANISMS produced by the body to fight infection could be used against the onset of schizophrenia, according to Oxford University researchers.

A study in The Lancet Psychiatry reveals certain kinds of antibodies appear in the blood of a significant percentage of people presenting with a first episode of psychosis.

The study shows the 'NMDAR' antibodies, which were previously shown to cause a life threatening inflammation of the brain, are also found in people with early presentations of schizophrenia.

The discovery offers fresh hope for new treatment possibilities for people experiencing psychosis, where a person may experience hallucinations, delusions and disturbed thoughts.

Professor Belinda Lennox from the department of psychiatry at Oxford University and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, which led the study, recruited 228 people across England including from Oxford.

She said: "The next important step is to work out whether removing the antibodies will treat psychosis. To do this the research team are starting a randomised controlled trial of immune treatment in people with psychosis."

InBrief

Hospital open day

THAME Community Hospital, in East Street, will open its doors on September 13 for people to find out more about its services.

People can find out what community treatment and assessment services are operated from the site, get health advice and learn more about new care options that are currently being piloted.

Go along between 2pm and 4.30pm. For more information go to buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/communityhubs.

Library to host sale

A BOOK and DVD sale is being held at Abingdon library tomorrow and Saturday.

The library is having a clearout of items withdrawn from shelves, with all DVDs costing £1 and books from 30p. It's open from 9am to 4pm on both days.

Break-in warning

POLICE are warning motorists not to leave valuable items in cars after two vehicles were broken into in Sutton Courtenay last week.

Thieves broke into the cars that were parked in Asquith Park between 11pm last Wednesday and 6.30am the following morning.

People are being urged not to leave windows and sunroofs open and not to leave anything in the car, even if it's out of sight.

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Staff at George Springall Homecare have been praised for their work

Care home sets the standard

A CARE home agency in south Oxfordshire rated as 'outstanding' has helped raise the bar nationally.

A report published last month by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) praised the service at George Springall Homecare overall for its 'strong commitment to promoting people's independence' and the 'thoughtfulness of staff'.

The report also rated the service as 'good' in three areas.

The award means that Oxfordshire is now better than the national average for "outstanding" domiciliary care agencies with three per cent given the top rating locally compared to two per cent nationally.

A total of 86 per cent of local agencies are rated "good" compared to 82 per cent nationally.

Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "It is pleasing to see that we are ahead of the national picture and this excellent result for the George Springall Partnership confirms that. My congratulations go to them on an excellent report that paints a picture of diligent and caring work that goes the extra mile for the people receiving care."

Sharing secrets of weight loss

By Eva Astreinidou

A SLIMMER who found confidence after shedding four stone is inviting others who are struggling to shift their weight to a support group this month.

Clint White is launching his own Slimming World group in Botley on September 7 with the aim of helping others achieve their dream weight.

After joining his local group in Witney six months ago, Mr White dropped from 17 and a half stone to 13 and a half stone.

Realising the importance of support throughout the weight-loss journey, he then decided to train as a consultant for Slimming World at their national academy in Derbyshire.

The 28-year-old said: "It all starts with feeling that you're not alone. I couldn't have lost four stone without the weekly help, encouragement and understanding of my own consultant and group.

"As someone who has lost weight myself I know the challenges people can face, which is why, along with the group, I will be there to support every one of my members all the way to their chosen target weight."

As a consultant, Mr White will set targets, share recipes and fitness tips, and work with the group to 'overcome challenges and celebrate success'.

Speaking of his own experience, he said he had previously tried numerous diets, but none of them seemed sustainable.

He said: "I thought I was destined to struggle with my weight for the rest of my life, but when I came to Slimming World it was different. I never felt like I was on a diet. The eating plan encourages you to eat lots of tasty, filling foods [and] no foods are banned so there's no deprivation."

Mr White's Slimming World group will be held at the St Peter and St Paul Church Room every Thursday at 5.30pm and 7.30pm from September 7.

Clint White before and after

To join, pop along or call him on 07377644558.

InBrief

Donate your Lego

BANBURY'S museum is urging people to donate Lego for an exhibition called Brick Wonders.

Opening from September 16, it will feature some of the most iconic wonders of the world including the Great Wall of China and the Great Pyramid of Giza – but all in miniature.

These have been made using over a quarter of a million bricks and visitors will have a chance to make their own structure.

Know your car's age

THE new '67' car registration plates will hit the road tomorrow – but the tradition of being able to 'read' a number plate is dying out.

While Oxford motorists are among the most plate-savvy with 60 per cent able to decipher plates, an average of only 1 in 3 across the rest of the UK can.

Research by car buying site carwow also found just two thirds know that the numbers indicate age.

Plans on display

RESIDENTS in Wantage and Grove can view plans for a new leisure centre at Mably Way for the first time next week.

Find out more and view plans at two public drop-in sessions on September 7 (Wantage Leisure Centre, 8am-8pm) and September 21 (Old Mill Hall, Grove, 3pm-8pm).

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Advertorial

Local Mum's Achieve Their Dreams and Gain a New Healthy Lifestyle!

Local mum's Kirstie and Laura have become the healthy mum's they've always dreamt of being after managing their weight through pregnancy.

Kirstie joined Steventon Slimming World group when she was 3 months pregnant and Laura joined shortly before her pregnancy. Now they are both celebrating the birth of their baby son's and are thrilled that they are able to pass on their healthy lifestyles to their families.

Laura says: "I've always struggled with my weight and knew if I wanted my dream of having a baby to come true, I needed to have one last go at losing weight, I joined my local Slimming world group and started losing weight and feeling more healthy. We'd been trying for some time to fall pregnant and I was undergoing fertility checks and was told that I needed to lose weight to meet the criteria for IVF. I'd lost 1st 7lb when I returned to the clinic and discovered I was pregnant at last. I spoke to my Slimming World Consultant immediately and she let me know about Slimming World's pregnancy policy and asked me to speak to my midwife about continuing to manage my weight at Slimming World."

"When I learnt Slimming World has a policy to support pregnant mums in partnership with the Royal College of Midwives, I felt reassured. My midwife was happy to let me carry on following Slimming World's healthy eating plan and going to group meetings."

In Kirstie's first pregnancy she struggled with her weight and blood pressure. She decided to take control this time and reduce the risk of it re-occurring. Kirstie initially joined Slimming World with the support of her Midwife to help with maintaining her weight, which would help to avoid complications and has now lost 4st 10lb since giving birth!

Slimming World has changed the way I think about food. The specially-tailored plan encouraged plenty of fresh foods like fruit and vegetables, chicken, pasta and potatoes, while encouraging extra portions of foods such as dairy for calcium to ensure that my baby and I were getting all the necessary vitamins and minerals and with the 'Food Optimising' eating plan, I never felt hungry and knew I could manage my cravings.

Consultant Nicola who runs the Steventon group, says: "We're so proud of Kirstie and Laura and what they've done to improve their health and the health of their families" and they were both nominated by the group for our Woman of the Year Competition. The Steventon group meet Wednesday at 9:30am, 5:30 & 7:30pm at Steventon Village Hall. For more information contact Nicola on **07704366840**. To find out more about how Slimming World works with the RCM visit www.slimmingworld.com/mums.

Kirstie before

Kirstie after

Laura before

Laura after

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

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Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

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Gardeners' Questions

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THIS WEEK'S JOB

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Your guide for your leisure time in & around Oxfordshire

Wry war-time tales from the Somme

Satirical play The Wipers Times comes to Oxford

Solving the mystery of Agatha Christie

Museum looks at her life and work

Revealing the mystery behind Christie

HER first book took five years to have published having been rejected by six publishers but to this day she remains the best-selling novelist of all time.

Queen of Crime Agatha Christie went on to write 66 novels as well as 150 short stories and plays and her work has been adapted for films, TV shows and the theatre.

But much of her private life remains a mystery - she lived in Wallingford for 42 years before her death in 1976 and a permanent exhibition at the town's museum pays tribute to her life and career.

Next weekend (September 7-9) the museum in High Street is hosting talks, walks and tea to remember the town's most-famous resident.

She wrote many of her novels at her home Winterbrook House where she lived with her archaeologist husband Max Mallowan. The house is identified now by its blue plaque.

Did you know: Belgian detective Hercule Poirot was given a full page obit in NY Times when he died

The exhibition takes visitors behind the scenes of her life here, featuring photos and memories of those who knew her as well as handwritten letters revealing her love of pantomimes.

On Friday night find out more about the Queen of Crime from Agatha Christie specialist John Curran in his talk The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie which will include plenty of references to her life in Wallingford and Cholsey.

John's talk takes place at Wallingford Masonic Hall at 8pm, tickets £12.

The following night historian and TV presenter Lucy Worsley will entertain with her talk entitled A Very British Murder.

Lucy will be speaking at Cholsey's St Mary's Church where Ms Christie is buried, from 8pm, tickets £15.

If you want to get out and enjoy the area while discovering some of the mystery surrounding the author, join the guided walks on Saturday and Sunday. Leaving from the museum at 10am, tickets (£10) include entry to exhibitions at the museum and Cholsey Day Centre and a return trip on the Cholsey & Wallingford Railway.

Did you know: Miss Marple was modelled on her maternal grandmother

Agatha Christie with husband Max Mallowan and inset, the blue plaque marking their home. Right, John Curran and Lucy Worsley are giving talks as part of the weekend

Exhibitions can be viewed at the Old School in Cholsey as well as at the museum and if you've not had your fill of crime yet, why not try the Midsomer Murders town walks?

Wallingford doubles as Causton in the popular TV series starring John Nettles which has racked up its fair share of bodies over the years.

Did you know: In 1917 Christie qualified as a dispenser, acquiring her knowledge of poisons which she put to good use in her books

One-hour walks leave from the town hall at 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Advertorial

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Roll up Roll up, get ready, Charles Chipperfield circus visits "Watermead" Aylesbury from 5th -10th September

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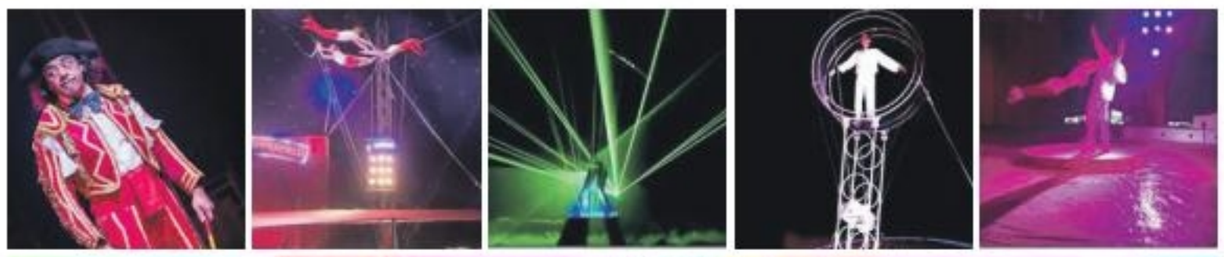

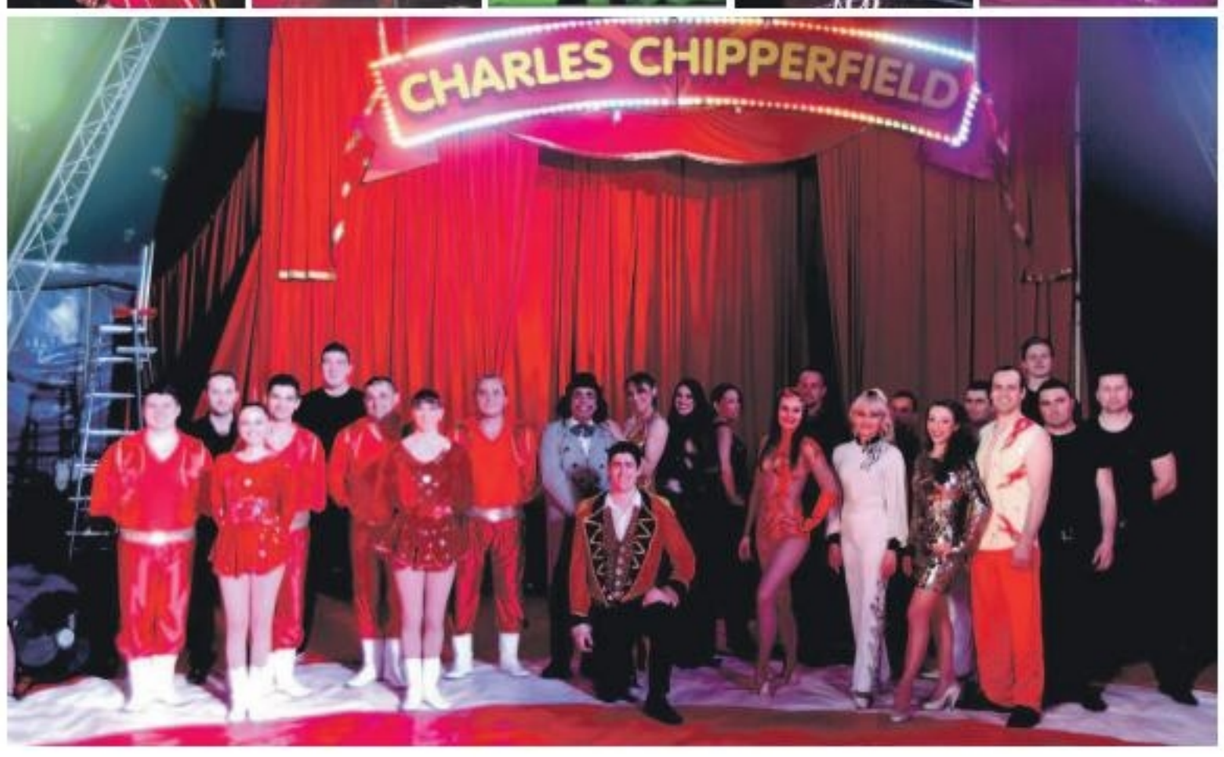

Taking sombre out of the Somme

By Samantha McGregor

The Wipers Times reflects the subversive and resolutely cheerful humour of the Somme trenches

A STAGE adaptation of the BBC film, The Wipers Times, a satirical newspaper created in the mud and mayhem of the Somme, opens in Oxford next month.

Set in Ypres in the First World War, this production, by Private Eye editor Ian Hislop and satirist Nick Newman, tackles the quintessentially British story about what happens when we are faced with death – we laugh at it.

This critically acclaimed play tells the true and extraordinary story of the satirical newspaper created in the trenches of the Somme.

It is interspersed with comic sketches and spoofs from the vivid imagination of those on the front line.

The Wipers Times comes to Oxford Playhouse from September 18 to 23, following a sell-out UK tour in 2016, and a hit run in the West End.

In a bombed out building during the First World War in the Belgian town of Ypres – mispronounced Wipers by British soldiers – two officers discover a printing press and create a newspaper for the troops.

Far from being a sombre journal about life in the trenches they produced a resolutely cheerful, subversive and funny newspaper designed to lift the spirits of the men on the frontline.

Defying enemy bombardment, gas attacks and the disapproval of many of the top brass, The Wipers Times rolled off the press for two years and was an extraordinary tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

The Wipers Times is written by Ian Hislop, the well-known journalist, satirist, writer, editor of Private Eye, and Magdalen College graduate, and Nick Newman, the satirical British cartoonist, comedy scriptwriter and Oriel College graduate.

Tickets for The Wipers Times at Oxford Playhouse start at £15 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

On stage

Drama and dinner

Oxford Playhouse presents Clair Whitefield's solo show, Chopping Chillies, as part of the Playhouse Plays Out programme, for an evening of storytelling on September 12.

Directed by Olivier Award-winner Guy Masterson, and accompanied by dinner, this mystical tale of love, loss and soul-food is part of the Playhouse's Food for Thought series and takes place within Cowley Road curry house Majliss.

Tickets cost £20 and include dinner and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

Music in the Cellar

New Zealand singer-songwriter Nadia Reid, described as Australasia's Joni Mitchell, will play at Oxford's The Cellar on Saturday.

The gig follows the release of Nadia's new album Preservation earlier this year. For more information view nadiareid.com

Modern day tale

The Tiger's Bride is a modern reworking of Charles Perrault's Beauty and the Beast, for adults.

It is presented by Marvellous Machine at Oxford's Burton Taylor Studio from September 11 to 16.

The show runs for 45 minutes. See oxfordplayhouse.com

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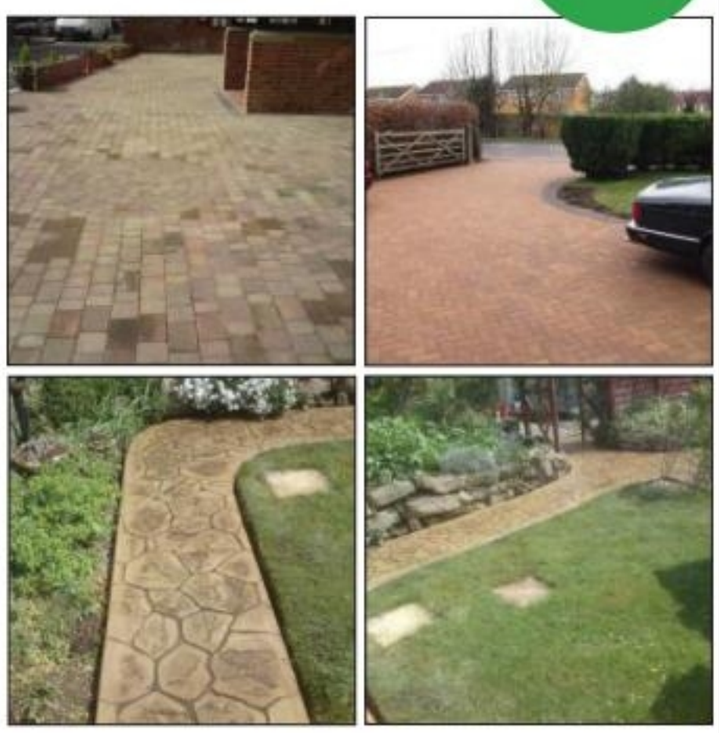

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You'll be blown away by Flown

By Samantha McGregor

Flown is big, bold and bonkers – even the musicians fly

CONTEMPORARY circus company Pirates of the Carabina make a return to the Oxford Playhouse with their new show, Flown.

Known for their fearless and beautifully choreographed aerial theatre, Pirates of the Carabina are a trailblazing circus company of highly experienced artists, riggers and musicians from across the world.

From September 14 to 16, Flown invites its audience into the magical world of the circus backstage.

See where a life treading the high-wire and swinging from the rafters is as absurd as it is wonderful, and disagreements, exhaustion and all manner of mishaps threaten to ruin the show.

Mixing comedy and chaos with bold physicality and live music, Flown is big, bold, and bonkers, and of course in the end, everything is flown - even the band.

Boasting an elite team - from aerialists to stuntmen and musicians to acrobats – Flown is packed full of turning whatever you think you know about the circus on its head.

But then that's what Pirates of the Carabina is all about. As their mission statement says: "We strive to push beyond physical boundaries to deliver remarkable performances of the highest skill level. We train to the highest degree so that our acts are at once surprising, awe-inspiring and unexpected.

"We are committed to preserving the tradition of circus, celebrating the heritage of our work and to upholding what this art form is about: making seemingly impossible things happen."

Flown is described as being suitable for ages seven and up.

Tickets from £11.50 from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

On stage

Comedian's second tour of Oxford

AWARD-WINNING comedian Stewart Lee, above, returns to Oxford Playhouse this month.

He brings his sell-out show Content Provider to the Oxford stage on September 11 and 12.

The Oxford Playhouse patron was in the city for a week long stint in spring this year, and is back by popular demand.

After four years of writing and performing half hour episodes of stand up for his TV show, Content Provider is Stewart's first long-form, full-length show since the award-winning Carpet Remnant World.

Stewart Lee is no stranger to Oxford – he began stand-up in 1988 at the age of 20, while studying at St Edmund Hall, and won the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year in 1990.

Tickets for Stewart Lee at Oxford Playhouse are £25, available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

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WIN tickets to see The Magic of Motown in Oxford

MUSIC fans are invited to the biggest party of the year as the unstoppable Magic of Motown show steams into town!

Seen by over a million people, it's no surprise that the show is one of the biggest success stories in British theatre history, even performing for Her Majesty the Queen, as special guests at the Royal Variety Performance.

The Magic of Motown is coming to the New Theatre Oxford on September 15th and it is going to be an amazing night.

Prepare yourself for 40 back-to-back classic Motown hits, glittering costume changes, dazzling dance moves and outstanding musicianship in this explosive concert experience.

Celebrate the sound of a generation as the timeless music of Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Four Tops, Martha Reeves, Jackson 5, Smokey Robinson and more, are sensationally recreated for you by an exceptionally talented cast and band.

This breath-taking concert spectacular takes you on a musical journey through all your favourite songs, including: Ain't No Mountain, Signed Sealed Delivered, Grapevine, Get Ready, Dancing In The Streets, My Girl, Blame It On The Boogie, Uptight, Endless Love, My Cherie Amor, All Night Long, Heatwave and many, many more.

Closing date: Friday, September 8

Win Tickets!

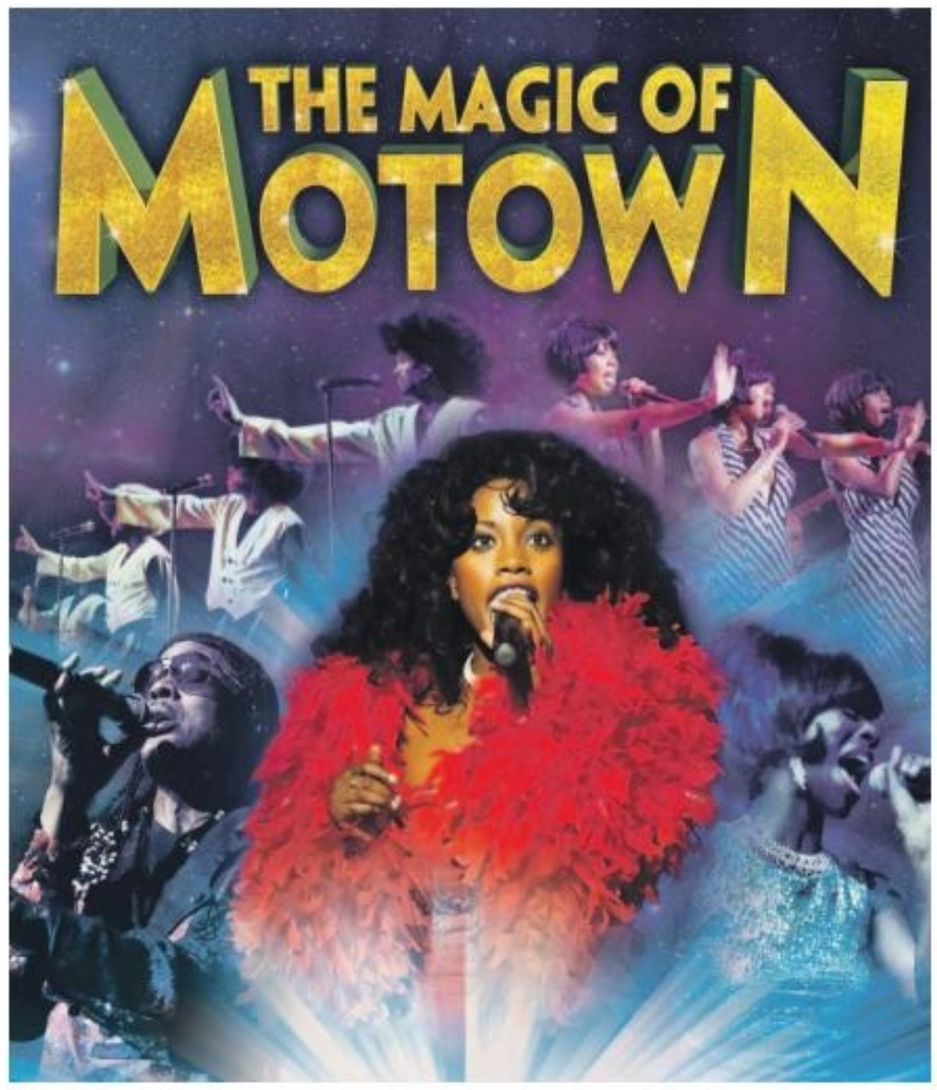
We have two pairs of tickets for this great show and to be in with a chance of winning a pair all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

Q: With which town is Motown Records associated?

Dallas, Detroit or Denver?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us



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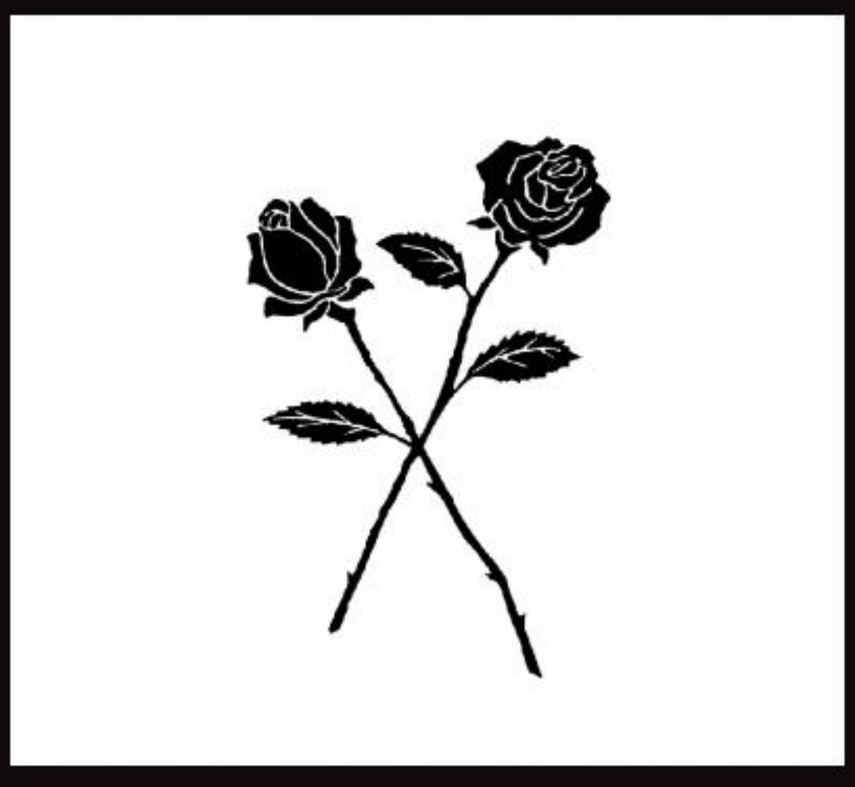

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Saturday September 2nd

BBC1

Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme, 6.25pm

DAYTIME **11.30 Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **12.30 Bargain Hunt** (R) **1.00 BBC News** (S) **1.15 Athletics: Diamond League Brussels Highlights** (S) **2.15 Live Triathlon** (S) **4.30 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.10 Celebrity Mastermind** (S)(R) **5.40 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers** (R) **6.10 News** (S) **6.20 News** (S) **6.25 Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme** (S)

7 **7.00 Pointless Celebrities** A star-studded, comedy-themed edition of the general knowledge quiz. (S)(R)
7.50 Casualty Ethan anxiously awaits the result of the coroner's report into Scott Ellisson's death, and Iain faces the wrath of Lily's Aunt Ling when he accompanies her to a family wedding. (S)

8 **9** **9.00 FILM The Full Monty (1997) (15)** Six unemployed men from Sheffield decide the only way to earn some money is to become a strip act – for one night only. Comedy, with Robert Carlyle. (S)

10 **10.25 BBC News; Weather;** (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.45 Mrs Brown's Boys Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue. (S)(R)

11 **11.15 Live at the Apollo** Comedy sets by Frankie Boyle, Simon Evans and Aisling Bea. (S)(R)
11.45 People Just Do Nothing (S)

AFTER 12 **12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **12.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Proms Extra, 6.45pm

10.45 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo (S)(R) **11.15 Wanted Down Under** (S)(R) **12.00 My Life on a Plate** (S)(R) **12.45 Dirk Bogarde: Talking Pictures** (S)(R) **1.25 FILM The Password Is Courage (1962) (U)** **3.20 Mastermind** (R) **3.45 University Challenge** (S)(R) **4.15 Only Connect** (S)(R) **4.45 Gardeners' World** (R) **5.45 The Big Family Cooking Showdown** (S)(R) **6.45 Proms Extra** (S)

7.25 Venice Biennale: Britain's New Voices British artists prepare an exhibit for the Italian festival. (S)

8.00 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks Iolo Williams visits Dare Valley Country Park near Aberdare. Last in the series. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army (S)(R)

9.00 Whitney: Can I Be Me Previously unused footage and live performance recordings tell the life story of celebrated American singer Whitney Houston. (S)

10.40 FILM Hunky Dory (2011) (15) Comedy drama, with Minnie Driver and Aneurin Barnard. (S)

12.25 FILM I'm So Excited! (2013) (15) Pedro Almodovar's comedy, starring Carlos Areces. **1.50** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

The Family Chase, 6pm

6.00 CITV 8.25 Weekend (S) **9.25 ITV News** (S) **9.30 Saturday Morning with James Martin** (S) **11.25 The Hungry Sailors** (S)(R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **1.30 Midsomer Murders** (S)(R) **3.30 FILM Mamma Mia! (2008) (PG)** Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. (S) **5.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 ITV News** (S) **6.00 The Family Chase** (S)

7.00 Cannonball New series. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show. (S)

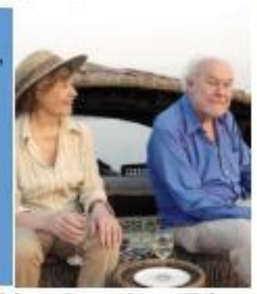
8.00 The X Factor New series. The long-running talent contest returns. (S)

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show New series. The chat show returns, as Jonathan interviews singer-turned-actor Harry Styles, actress Suranne Jones and comedian John Bishop. (S)

10.30 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.45 FILM Die Another Day (2002) (12) Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (S)

1.15 Jackpot247 3.00 The Hungry Sailors (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

Channel 4



Great Canal Journeys: India, 8pm

6.40 Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri (S)(R) **7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.50 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S)(R) **1.20 Four in a Bed** (S)(R) **4.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun** (S)(R) **5.00 Channel 4 News** (S) **5.30 Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights** (S)

7.00 Rome's Sunken Secrets Documentary exploring the underwater ruins of an ancient Roman city located in the Bay of Naples. (S)(R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys: India The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India. (S)(R)

9.00 FILM A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) (12) Action adventure sequel, with Bruce Willis and Jai Courtney. (S)

10.50 FILM X-Men 2 (2003) (12) Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen. (S)

1.10 Hollyoaks (S) **3.15** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb (S) **5.05** Double Your House for Half the Money (S)(R)

Channel 5

Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, 6pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.45 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2** (S)(R) **11.05 Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits** (S)(R) **12.00 Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four** (S)(R) **1.00 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **4.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** The sheriffs chase £10,000 owed by a publican to a contractor. (R)

7.55 5 News Weekend (S)

8.00 Supernatural Nazis Hitler's belief in black magic and psychic abilities, which he used to influence the course of the war. (S)

9.00 Super Scary Plane Landings Caribbean islands that are home to some of the world's most difficult runways, including St Barts. (S)(R)

10.00 The Secret Life of the Long-Haul Flight Documentary following one of the longest flights in the world – from London to Sydney. (S)(R)

11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (S)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.25** Emmerdale **9.00** Coronation Street **10.35** Catchphrase **11.20** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **11.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **12.15** You've Been Framed! Reloaded **1.20** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Andy Samberg. **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) Concluded. **3.00** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Concluded. **4.50** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Concluded. **6.55** FILM: Pacific Rim (2013) (12) Sci-fi adventure, starring Charlie Hunnam. **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** FILM: Pacific Rim (2013) (12) Concluded. **9.30** FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Comedy, starring Steve Carell. **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35** FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Concluded. **11.50** Family Guy **1.15** American Dad! **2.10** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Murder, She Wrote **7.45** FILM: Carry On Girls (1973) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **8.45** FYI Daily **8.50** FILM: Carry On Girls (1973) (PG) **9.35** FILM: Are You Being Served? (1977) (PG) **10.35** FYI Daily **10.40** FILM: Are You Being Served? (1977) (PG) **11.30** Jane Eyre **1.45** The Darling Buds of May **3.00** FILM: The Queen (2006) (12) Oscar-winning biographical drama, starring Helen Mirren. **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** FILM: The Queen (2006) (12) Concluded. **5.05** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **1.05** The Knock **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.10** The Everly Brothers: Harmonies from Heaven **1.10** Metal at the BBC **1.40** Fabric of Britain: The Wonder of Embroidery **2.40** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.40** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 The Goldbergs **6.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.15** Coach Trip: Road to Zante **10.55** Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **11.55** FILM: Muppet Treasure Island (1996) (U) Musical puppet comedy, with Tim Curry. **1.55** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** FILM: GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) (12) Action adventure sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson. **10.05** Naked Attraction **11.10** Gogglebox **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.25** Naked Attraction **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.30** Coast vs Country **10.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **1.40** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun **2.40** Come Dine with Me **5.20** Four in a Bed **8.00** Cleopatra's Lost Tomb **9.00** Cruel and Unusual **11.10** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** Cleopatra's Lost Tomb **3.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **3.55** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Baggage Claim (2013) (12) Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton. **1.00** The Book of Life (2014) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Diego Luna. **2.50** Carry On Constable (1960) (U) Comedy, starring Sid James. **4.30** Fantastic Four (2005) (PG) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (12) Comedy, with Robin Williams. **9.00** Prisoners (2013) (15) Thriller, starring Hugh Jackman. **12.05** Solomon Kane (2010) (15) **2.10** The Evil Dead (1982) (18) **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Brojects **10.00** Sin City Motors **12.00** Top Gear **1.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **2.00** Traffic Cops **3.00** Gavin & Stacey **5.40** Would I Lie to You? **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** FILM: Swordfish (2001) (15) Crime thriller, starring John Travolta and Hugh Jackman. **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** QI XL **2.00** Would I Lie to You? **2.35** Not Going Out **3.10** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.30 The Last Detective **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** When the Boat Comes In **5.00** Judge John Deed **7.00** Jonathan Creek **8.00** Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Shetland **11.35** Waking the Dead **2.05** Sharpe **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **7.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **8.00** The F1 Show **8.30** Soccer AM: The Best Bits **9.00** Football's Funniest Moments **9.30** Premier League Preview **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** What's Up TV **12.00** The Dog Whisperer **2.00** Game4Grenfell. Coverage of the charity football match from QPR's Loftus Road. **5.30** Football's Funniest Moments **6.30** Flying Monsters with David Attenborough **8.00** Carpool Karaoke Special **9.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **10.00** FILM: Snakes on a Plane (2006) (15) Thriller, starring Samuel L Jackson. **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Ross Kemp on Gangs **3.00** Brit Cops: Law & Disorder **4.00** Stargate Atlantis

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The British **7.00** The Guest Wing **9.00** Human Made Stories **9.10** Storm City **10.10** Human Made Stories **10.20** Fish Town **11.20** Becoming Warren Buffett **1.05** House **4.00** Without a Trace **9.00** Game of Thrones **12.30** Ballers **1.05** Real Time with Bill Maher **2.15** Twin Peaks: The Return **3.25** Looking **4.00** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.00 Countryside 999 **7.00** The Bill **11.00** EastEnders **1.30** Celebrity Tipping Point **3.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **5.30** My Family Christmas Special **6.50** FILM: Yes Man (2008) (12) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **9.00** FILM: Kill Bill: Vol 2 (2004) (18) Revenge thriller sequel, starring Uma Thurman. **11.40** Louis Theroux: Behind Bars **12.40** Life and Death Row **1.40** Grimm **2.30** Judge Faith **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Goodnight Sweetheart **8.05** Lucky Feller **8.35** The Piglet Files **9.10** A Sharp Intake of Breath **9.50** Butterflies **10.30** Only Fools and Horses **12.35** Goodnight Sweetheart **1.45** Butterflies **2.30** Big School **3.30** Inside No 9 **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT SKY: 401

6.00 Through the Night **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans. Including news and views on today's early stories and a look at the back pages. **10.00** Soccer Saturday Pre-Match **10.30** Live NatWest T20 Blast Cricket. The opening semi-final. **2.15** Live NatWest T20 Blast Cricket. The second semi-final. **5.45** Masterclass: Daniel Vettori **6.15** Live NatWest T20 Blast Cricket. The final. **10.00** TBA **12.00** Live MLS. **2.00** Through the Night

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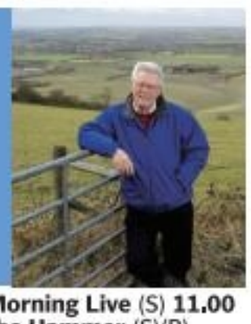
Sunday September 3rd

DAYTIME

BBC1


Countryfile, 7pm

10.00 Sunday Morning Live (S) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **2.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.00 Points of View** (S) **3.15 Lifeline** (S) **3.25 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.00 Diana: The Last Princess of Wales** (S) **5.00 FILM Toy Story 3 (2010) (U)** (S) **6.35 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7 **7.00 Countryfile** A look at how our food is harvested. (S)

8 **8.00 Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould travel to Australia to verify whether a painting is a lost work by impressionist Tom Roberts. (S)

9 **9.00 Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling** The story reaches a climax as long-buried secrets are revealed, putting Strike and Robin in danger as they close in on Lula Landry's killer. Last in the series.

10 **10.00 BBC News** (S) **10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **10.30 New Tricks** (S)(R)

11 **11.30 FILM Keeping Rosy (2014) (15)** Thriller, starring Maxine Peake and Blake Harrison. (S)

AFTER **12** **12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **1.00** BBC News (S)

BBC2

III Behaviour, 10pm

7.30 Gardeners' World (S)(R) **8.30 The Beechgrove Garden** (S) **9.00 Countryfile** (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food** (S)(R) **12.00 A Cook Abroad: Monica Galetti's France** (S)(R) **1.00 Boxing: World Amateur Championships** (S) **3.00 Equestrian: Burghley Horse Trials** (S) **5.00 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.00 Wild Tales from the Village** (S)(R)

7 **7.00 Tribes, Predators & Me** Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea. Last in the series. (S)(R)

8 **8.00 Dragons' Den** Pitches include a crowdfunded range of personalised luxury bags and a range of free-from, allergy-friendly frozen curry sauces. (S)

9 **9.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The candidates move from basic to advanced stages of selection, heading to some of the most specialised astronaut training facilities in Europe. (S)

10 **10.00 III Behaviour** Joel is consumed by paranoia as he and Tess resort to locking Charlie in the basement. Last in the series. (S)

11 **11.00 FILM Let Me In (2010) (15)** Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee. (S)

AFTER **12** **12.45 FILM Return from the River Kwai (1988) (15)** Second World War drama sequel, starring Chris Penn. (S) **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **3.20** Holby City (S)(R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two

ITV

Tipping Point: Lucky Stars, 6pm

9.30 Judge Rinder (S)(R) **10.25 Joanna Lumley's Postcards** (S)(R) **10.55 James Martin's French Adventure** (S)(R) **11.20 Long Lost Family** (S)(R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Bear Grylls Survival School** (S)(R) **1.00 FILM Happy Feet (2006) (U)** (S) **3.00 The X Factor** (S)(R) **4.30 Victoria** (S)(R) **5.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.40 ITV News** (S) **6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars** (S)

7 **7.00 Coronation Street** Phelan makes a grave decision about Andy. (S)

8 **8.00 The X Factor** The long-running talent contest continues. (S)

9 **9.00 Victoria** The queen suspects that her husband is attracted to another woman and discovers she is pregnant for a second time. (S)

10 **10.05 ITV News;** Weather (S) **10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories** Barrister Robert Rinder examines real-life cases. (S)(R)

11 **11.25 5 Gold Rings** A brother and sister take on two Royal Navy shipmates. (S)(R)

AFTER **12** **12.20 Jackpot247 3.00** Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights, 5.45pm

6.00 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (S)(R) **6.15 Last Man Standing 6.40 Outlaw Triathlon** (S) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.20 FILM Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) (U)** (S) **3.15 The Crystal Maze** (S)(R) **4.10 The Great British Bake Off** (S)(R) **5.25 Channel 4 News** (S) **5.45 Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights** (S)

8 **8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier** Levison Wood and his guide journey by any means available through Azerbaijan and Georgia. (S)

9 **9.00 FILM Exodus: Gods and Kings (2014) (12)** Premiere. Biblical epic, starring Christian Bale and Joel Edgerton. (S)

11 **11.50 FILM Safe House (2012) (15)** Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. (S)

AFTER **12** **1.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S)(R) **2.40** Gillette World Sport (S) **3.10** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **3.35** Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri (S)(R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.25** Jamie's Comfort Food Bites (S)(R) **5.35** Too Many Cooks (S)(R)

Channel 5

Traffic Cops: Under Attack, 6pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **11.10 Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **12.05 Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **1.05 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **2.05 All New Traffic Cops** (S)(R) **5.00 Traffic Cops: On the Edge** (S)(R) **6.00 Traffic Cops: Under Attack** (S)(R)

7 **7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** High Court enforcement agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner are in Birmingham. (S)(R)

8 **8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights** New series. Action from the opening round of fixtures. (S) **8.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

9 **9.00 FILM Fifty Shades of Grey (2015) (18)** Premiere. Erotic drama, starring Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson. Including 5 News Update at 22.00. (S)

11 **11.25 My Secret Sex Fantasy** New series. A detailed look at the deepest fantasies of ordinary men and women. (S)

AFTER **12** **12.20 OMG! Rise of the Insta-Babes** (S) **1.10** SuperCasino (S) **3.10** Judy Garland: In Life and Death (S)(R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (S)(R) **4.50** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.20** Nick's Quest (S)(R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.15** Mr Bean **6.40** Emmerdale **9.30** Coronation Street **11.00** The X Factor **12.35** FILM: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Steve Coogan and Jackie Chan. **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** FILM: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) (PG) Concluded. **2.55** FILM: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) (U) Comedy sequel, starring Charles Grodin. **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** FILM: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) (U) Concluded. **4.45** FILM: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) (PG) Children's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** FILM: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) (PG) Concluded. **7.00** FILM: Inception (2010) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** FILM: Inception (2010) (12) Concluded. **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Viral Tap **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 FILM: Are You Being Served? (1977) (PG) Comedy based on the TV series, starring John Inman. **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** FILM: Are You Being Served? (1977) (PG) Concluded. **7.50** Heartbeat **9.55** Murder, She Wrote **12.55** Midsomer Murders **2.55** FILM: The Secret Garden (1993) (U) Children's drama, starring Kate Maberly. **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** FILM: The Secret Garden (1993) (U) Concluded. **5.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Diana: The Day Britain Cried **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.05** Foyle's War **2.50** The Knock **3.45** Wycliffe **4.40** Rising Damp **5.05** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge. Stephen Smith explores the life and work of the renowned jeweller, best known for the eggs he made out of precious metals and gemstones for the last tsars of Russia. **8.00** BBC Proms 2017 **12.40** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **2.35** The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge **3.35** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Kevin Can Wait **6.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.25** Hollyoaks **11.00** Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05** FILM: The Tigger Movie (2000) (U) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **3.40** FILM: Rio (2011) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg. **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: The A-Team (2010) (12) Action adventure, starring Liam Neeson. **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **12.20** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **1.20** Don't Tell the Bride **2.25** Body Fixers **3.20** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Location, Location, Location **12.10** Come Dine with Me **2.50** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** World's Most Expensive Cars **9.00** Car SOS **10.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.10** Car SOS **2.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Phantom (1996) (12) Superhero adventure, starring Billy Zane. **1.00** Baby's Day Out (1994) (PG) Family comedy, with Joe Mantegna. **2.50** Eragon (2006) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **4.55** Congo (1995) (12) Jungle adventure, starring Dylan Walsh. **7.00** Evolution (2001) (PG) Sci-fi comedy, starring David Duchovny. **9.00** Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) (15) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. **11.15** Instinct (1999) (15) Psychological drama, starring Anthony Hopkins. **1.40** Mindscape (2013) (15) Fantasy thriller, starring Mark Strong. **3.45** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Top Gear **9.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **10.00** Traffic Cops **11.00** FILM: Escape to Victory (1981) (PG) Second World War adventure, starring Michael Caine. **1.20** FILM: Kelly's Heroes (1970) (PG) Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **4.10** Would I Lie to You? **5.20** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **6.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **7.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00** QI XL **1.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **2.05** Would I Lie to You? **2.45** Parks and Recreation **3.35** The Indestructibles **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Garrow's Law **9.00** The Bill **12.00** North and South **4.05** Catherine Cookson's A Dinner of Herbs **7.00** Murdoch Mysteries **8.00** Jonathan Creek **9.00** Silent Witness **11.25** Taggart **2.25** Garrow's Law **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **7.30** Modern Family **10.00** WWE Raw Hlts **11.00** Hawaii Five-0 **1.00** Road Wars **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Game4Grenfell **9.00** The Last Ship **10.00** The Force: North East **11.00** Zoo **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Most Daring **2.00** Ross Kemp on Gangs **3.00** Road Wars **4.00** Stargate Atlantis

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The Guest Wing **9.00** Fish Town **11.00** House **2.00** Remembering the Artist: Robert De Niro Sr **3.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.30** Ballers **11.10** 1993 **12.20** Looking **1.00** Twin Peaks: The Return **3.20** Looking **4.00** Urban Secrets

W SKY: 109

7.00 MasterChef Australia **12.30** My Restaurant in India **1.00** Doctor Who **3.00** My Family **3.40** My Family Christmas Special **5.00** Outnumbered **7.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Davina McCall **10.00** Louis Theroux: Behind Bars **11.00** Life and Death Row **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Grimm **2.40** Judge Faith **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Goodnight Sweetheart **8.05** Lucky Feller **8.40** The Piglet Files **9.15** A Sharp Intake of Breath **9.50** Butterflies **10.30** Only Fools and Horses **11.30** David Jason: My Life on Screen **12.35** Only Fools and Horses **4.45** The Story of Only Fools and Horses **5.45** Only Fools and Horses **12.35** Goodnight Sweetheart **1.55** Butterflies **2.30** Big School **3.00** Lucky Feller **3.30** Inside No 9 **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT SKY: 401

6.00 Through the Night **7.00** Total Goals **10.00** Sports Sunday **11.30** Live Formula 1. The drivers are presented to the fans during the Italian Grand Prix track parade. **12.00** Live Formula 1. The team present live from the pit lane. **12.30** Live Formula 1. The Italian Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Live GAA. Galway v Waterford (Throw-in 3.30pm). **6.00** Live PGA Tour Golf. The Dell Technologies Championship. **10.30** Sports Sunday **11.00** Through the Night

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6			3	8				5
		3			2	8		
5				1	6		4	7
	6				5			8
9			8			1	2	
		4		9	7			

WORDWHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate:
15 words, average; 20 words, good; 25 words, very good; 30 or more, excellent.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

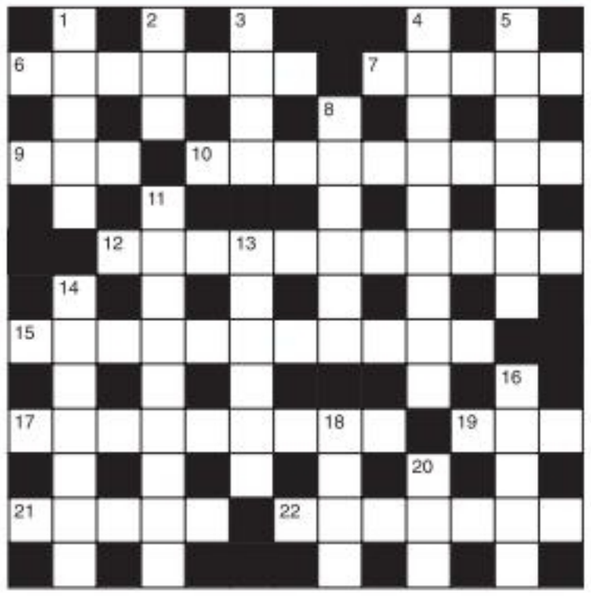
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. A dour disposition is, to us, hard to bear (7)
7. A shade of caution (5)
9. Stupid quadruped (3)
10. Supplies information for close friends (9)
12. Imaginary convert to Christianity (4,7)
15. Most important mixture of modern paint (11)
17. Have a look at some impressive matter before going to sleep (4,2,3)
19. The time in which the race was run (3)
21. Warms up for the opening races (5)
22. Alterations in the bell-ringer's programme (7)

Down

1. Cheeky, through lacking experience (5)
2. It may be trained to kill (3)
3. Go, but not straight ahead (4)
4. In a hurry to make me paint it (9)
5. Save up a pound (7)
8. Pigs can't fly, but one pig might! (6)
11. He stands, wishing to sit (9)
13. Something valuable from copper mines (6)
14. Plant for a sycophant (7)
16. In a small way you'll find me prepared to fight (5)
18. A nymph in the chorus (4)
20. Animal found in growing numbers (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

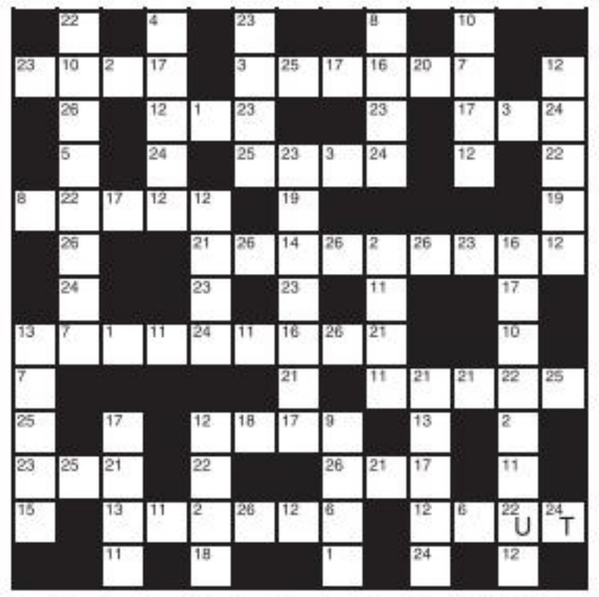
6. Self-important (7)
7. Vacillate (5)
9. Jewel (3)
10. Distributed (9)
12. Insobreity (11)
15. Rash (11)
17. Aware (9)
19. Pig-pen (3)
21. Lure (5)
22. Poster (7)

Down

1. Lid (5)
2. Copy (3)
3. Certain (4)
4. Fatherhood (9)
5. Set free (7)
8. Soundless (6)
11. Exactness (9)
13. Serviette (6)
14. Bent (7)
16. Stock (5)
18. Unsightly (4)
20. Perform (3)

CODEWORD

Codeword is the crossword puzzle with no clues. The number in each square corresponds to a letter. Work out the words in the grid using the letters provided. Fill in these known letters first, then use skill and judgement to work out the others.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22 U	23	24 T	25	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

DOUBLE CROSSWORD:
Cryptic: Across: 7 Light infantry; 8 Liberate; 9 Oath; 10 Stitch; 12 Armada; 14 Craven; 16 Lethal; 18 Bass; 20 Marigold; 22 Laughing stock.
Down: 1 Minister; 2 Threat; 3 Pisa; 4 After all; 5 Inform; 6 Brat; 11 Handmaid; 13 Deadlock; 15 Visage; 17 Tights; 19 Away; 21 Rage.

Quick: Across: 7 Comprehension; 8 Splinter; 9 Earn; 10 Static; 12 Answer; 14 Prison; 16 Hearth; 18 Stir; 20 Entering; 22 Indispensable.
Down: 1 Computer; 2 Sprint; 3 Deft; 4 Reproach; 5 Assess; 6 Poor; 11 Contempt; 13 Entangle; 15 Strain; 17 Abroad; 19 Tine; 21 Tang.

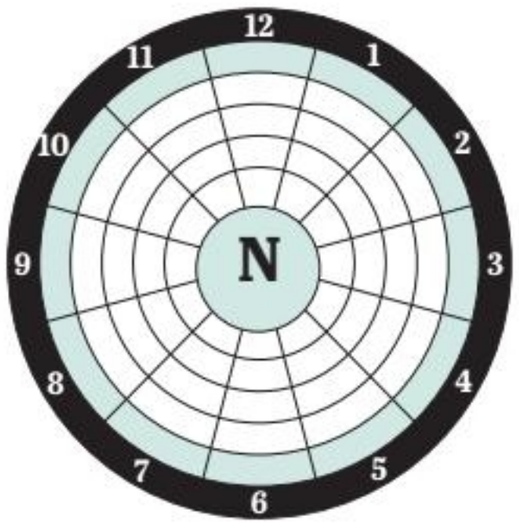
SUDOKU:

9	6	1	4	8	2	3	7	5
2	4	7	3	5	6	1	8	9
8	3	5	7	9	1	4	2	6
6	7	9	1	4	8	5	3	2
1	8	3	9	2	5	7	6	4
4	5	2	6	7	3	9	1	8
5	2	4	8	3	7	6	9	1
3	1	8	5	6	9	2	4	7
7	9	6	2	1	4	8	5	3

CODEWORD:
1=F, 2=Q, 3=Z, 4=P, 5=M, 6=T, 7=C, 8=B, 9=J, 10=H, 11=K, 12=L, 13=Y, 14=U, 15=R, 16=E, 17=A, 18=N, 19=X, 20=I, 21=D, 22=V, 23=W, 24=S, 25=O, 26=G.
WORD WHEEL:
AWKWARDLY.

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British singer.



1. Glove
2. Detain
3. Artillery weapon
4. Young cat
5. Occur
6. Naughty child
7. Cave
8. Eastern garment
9. ------ Bates, Psycho character
10. Deed
11. Skin cream
12. Capital city

NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THE CLUES:

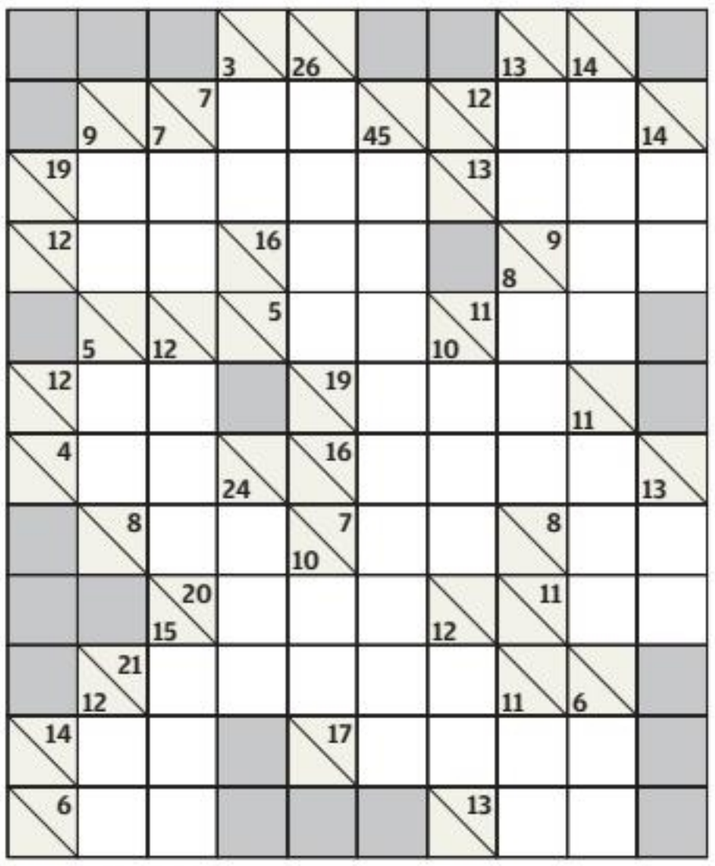
8775198 gives a shape;
653678 gives a shape;
9423 gives a shape.

KAKURO

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9.

Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it.

No number may be used more than once in any one block.



SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

S C	O T	A I	R T	L S
T G		D H		A W
S O	C P	E O	N A	D N
R X		X A		B D
S M	A I	L C	K E	R Y

SUDOKU

4		8				2		
				1	3			
6				8		1		4
					5		8	
	7	3				5	6	
	9		7					
3		5		7				9
			1	3				
		7				8		6

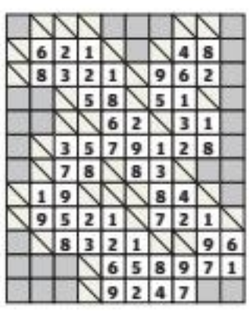
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CLOCKWORD:
1 Jargon, 2 Oxygen, 3 Heaven, 4 Nelson, 5 Neaten, 6 Yeoman, 7 Baboon, 8 Reason, 9 Inborn, 10 Gammon, 11 Garden, 12 Saturn.

CELEBRITY: Johnny Briggs.

NINER:
PERVADING.

KAKURO:



SUDOKU:

5	2	9	4	7	6	8	3	1
8	4	6	1	5	3	2	7	9
1	3	7	2	9	8	5	6	4
7	5	3	6	8	4	9	1	2
9	1	4	5	2	7	6	8	3
6	8	2	3	1	9	4	5	7
2	7	1	8	4	5	3	9	6
4	6	8	9	3	1	7	2	5
3	9	5	7	6	2	1	4	8

SPLIT DECISION:

S	P	O	T	S
H		P		A
E	V	E	N	T
E		N		E
T	A	S	K	S

BARNES Holidays

Lakes, Dales, Mountains & Blackpool Illuminations
20/10/17
4 Days: £249

A superb tour viewing some of Britain's finest scenery in both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District. Our centre is Morecambe with its level, five mile promenade and superb views across the bay to the Lakeland hills. We will be staying at the Lothersdale Hotel which is situated on the promenade, with breathtaking views across the bay and to the Lake District mountains.

Tatton Park, Erddig Hall & Chester
26/10/17
3 Days: £239

Spectacular scenery, glorious gardens, plus a rich culture and heritage are just a few things on offer in charming Cheshire! We will be staying at the majestic Grade 1 listed building The 4 star Crewe Hall hotel which is set in the heart of Cheshire's countryside with full leisure facilities.

Autumn Tints at Chatsworth & in The Peaks
26/10/17
3 Days: £229

Chatsworth is one of the UK's most loved historic houses and estates. It has something for everyone to do, from the famous art galleries, beautiful water features and amazing gardens and grounds, to the finest shops, food and drink. We also enjoy the Peak District plus some of its towns whilst in their lovely autumnal colours.

Pembrokeshire Coast: Tenby
03/11/17
4 Days: £259

Pembrokeshire is known throughout the world for its awesome coastal scenery and its golden sands are backed by towering cliffs. Tenby is a delightful little harbour town and seaside resort in a picturesque setting. For this tour we will be staying at the Clarence Hotel which is superbly situated on the esplanade with panoramic views.

Exmouth & Devon Coastal Towns
10/11/17
4 Days: £239

Exmouth commands a wonderful position where the River Exe joins the sea. Devon's oldest seaside resort, it is renowned for its red cliffs and has a long level promenade with fine view to the sea and along the coastline. We will be staying at the Manor Hotel situated close to the beach and town with stunning views across Exmouth Bay.

The English Riviera Torquay
17/11/17
4 Days: £269

Paignton is a lovely seaside resort with a level esplanade leading to a small harbour, and there are fine views over Torbay with its vivid blue sea and sky. As well as the beautiful coastline, our tours will show us much of Devon's enchating countryside. We will be staying at the 3 star elegant Headland Hotel which is situated in one of the most beautiful parts of Torquay sitting majestically on the headland.

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- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Flora, Stresa (upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Astoria at a supplement)
- ✔ Borromean Islands cruise with visits to Isola Bella and Isola Pescatori
- ✔ Three lakes tour of Lake Maggiore, Lake Lugano and Lake Como
- ✔ Centovalli narrow-gauge railway excursion to Locarno, Switzerland
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel
- ✔ Services of an English-speaking representative

from 8 days, by AIR £799 pp

Quote Code: DNA968
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/DNA968

The advertised price is correct as of 27 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Heathrow airport on 8 October 2017.

THE ITALIAN RIVIERA,
Portofino and Monte Carlo

Saturday departures, 6 May and 2 & 16 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Heathrow airport to Nice†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at a 3 or 4 star hotel in Diano Marina or Alassio
- ✔ Three full-day excursions; to Rapallo & Portofino, Monte Carlo, and San Remo & Dolceacqua
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel
- ✔ Services of an English-speaking representative

from 8 days, by AIR £769 pp

Quote Code: PRG269
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/PRG269

The advertised price is correct as of 27 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Heathrow airport on 16 September 2017.

BARCELONA
& Catalonia

Thursday departures, 18 May & 5 October 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 4 star Aquahotel Promenade, Pineda de Mar
- ✔ Panoramic coach tour of Barcelona, plus a guided walk in the old town
- ✔ Full-day excursions to Montserrat and Figueres & Besalú
- ✔ Admission to Parc Güell, Barcelona and the Dalí Theatre-Museum, Figueres
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from 8 days, by AIR £719 pp

Quote Code: RRC734
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/RRC734

The advertised price is correct as of 27 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 5 October 2017.

LAKE GARDA

Selected Saturday departures, May - September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Verona†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Bisesti, Garda
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

- ✔ Optional excursions available at a supplement; The Dolomites, Lake Garda Tour & Venice

from 8 days, by AIR £799 pp

Quote Code: XYF290
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/XYF290

The advertised price is correct as of 27 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 6 May 2017.

VALENCIA
and Costa Blanca

Departing Wednesday 7 June 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Alicante†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 4 star Cap Negret Hotel, Altea
- ✔ Walking tour of Altea
- ✔ Half-day excursion to Guadalest
- ✔ Full-day excursion to Valencia with half-day official guided tour
- ✔ Excursion to Marina Alta, Calpe and Valle de Jalon, with paella in Tarbena
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from 8 days, by AIR £859 pp

Quote Code: DKE827
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/DKE827

The advertised price is correct as of 28 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 7 June 2017.

MADRID
Salamanca and Toledo

Friday departures, 1 September & 20 October 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Heathrow airport to Madrid†
- ✔ 4 nights at the 3 star Hotel Puerta de Toledo, Madrid and 3 nights at the 3 star Hotel Carlos V, Toledo with breakfast
- ✔ Dinner on the first night in each hotel
- ✔ Full-day guided excursions to Salamanca, El Escorial, and Aranjuez & Chinchón, plus guided walking tours of Madrid and Toledo
- ✔ Admission to El Escorial Palace and the Royal Palace in Aranjuez
- ✔ Airport taxes, return airport transfers and transfer by coach between Madrid and Toledo

from 8 days, by AIR £899 pp

Quote Code: RLQ199
View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/RLQ199

The advertised price is correct as of 27 February 2017 and is based upon departures from Heathrow airport on 1 September 2017.

For more information or to book, please call **01524 37500**

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00 SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

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Wedding Plans

DONNINGTON GROVE
COUNTRY CLUB

"Donnington Grove is simply an amazing venue to hold your wedding, situated in 500 acres of Berkshire's finest countryside by the river Lambourn. The manor house permits receptions and civil ceremonies which together with our experienced staff and bespoke wedding service will ensure that your special day is certainly one to remember."

The Donnington Grove Newbury Wedding Show – 3rd September 2017
Free Admission. 11am – 3.30pm

Free glass of bubbly on arrival
Free prize draw – (Meal for two with wine included)
Free Goody Bag
VIP tours available on request
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THE DIAMOND ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE
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- Complementary suite for the bride and groom on the wedding night and their first anniversary

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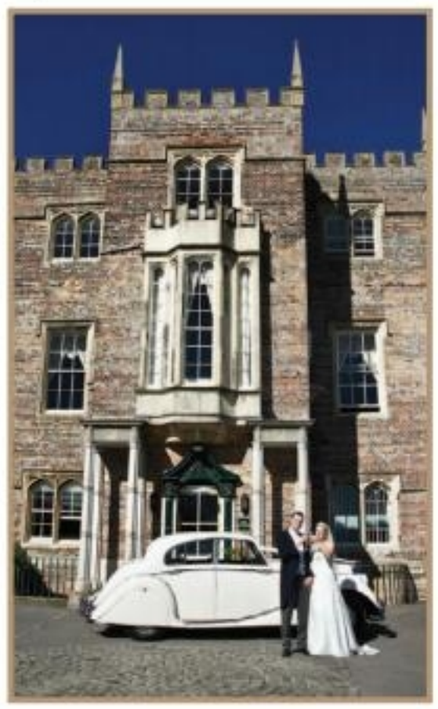

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weddings@donnington-grove.com - www.donnington-grove.com

Having been a guest at countless nuptials over the years, I can honestly say; I've seen many changes over the years. The finger buffet has been replaced more often than not with a themed larger than life extravaganza to entertain all in attendance from dusk til dawn.

You only have to look at the wide variety of wedding programmes on TV to leave you asking 'where do I begin?'.

Before you start poring through all the glossy magazines, it's best to sit down with family and friends and discuss what your own wish list, what you as a couple all about and start from there. Of course once you have thought about your style of wedding, your first consideration is the cost, don't start off with big plans and then realise you can't afford them.

With the hospitality business being so competitive, there are many options to choose from – venue is one of the most important considerations, the distance for all to travel and/or accommodation options for those who live a little further afield. It has been said that if music is the food of love, then play on – both food and music can be what make or break the big day, especially from the guests' point of view.

Sample the food before confirming a booking as there is nothing more embarrassing than being the wedding everyone remembers for the wrong reasons.

If you're not using a wedding planner, a checklist is an essential - start working your way through the timeline of things to do according to your priorities and ensure any deadlines are adhered to in terms of alterations to the dress, bookings for formal hire and not forgetting delivery of the cake whilst juggling the decorations at the same time; basically failing to prepare is preparing to fail epically here.

Your wedding attendants are also key to the success of the day – do you really want a best men who is going to leave you both red faced? And is it necessary to have all 10 of your best friends from primary school as bridesmaids?

Some of our advertisers here may be able to help with your big day, give them a call and say "I do…"

This is your invitation to view the selection of function rooms available for civil ceremonies, partnerships & wedding receptions. You will have the opportunity to discuss your specific wedding plans with one of our co-ordinators.

Eynsham Hall
"WHOLEHEARTEDLY"
Wedding Open Day
Sunday 10th September 2017 ~ From 12pm until 4.30pm

To book an appointment please call us on 01993 885201.
If you are unable to make an appointment, please feel free to come along and view the rooms set for a wedding or civil partnership.

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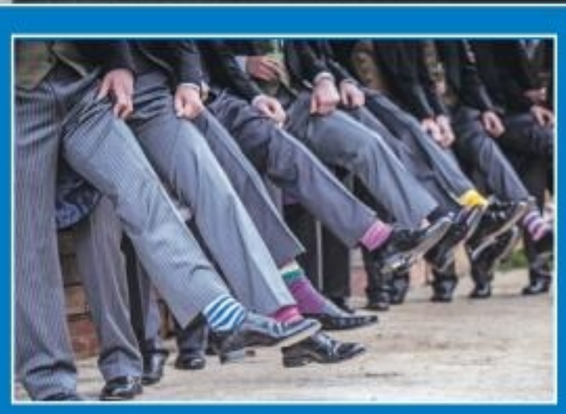
The Cotswold Tailor

The Cotswold Tailor offers both bespoke wedding tailoring and luxury hirewear. With shops in both Woodstock and Shipston On Stour, don't leave looking good on your big day to chance. We can cater for all sorts of weddings from traditional to country. This luxury informative service doesn't cost the earth either. We offer a clear price structure on our website, which we feel offers greater value for money, when compared with high street alternatives.



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The Changing Face Of Men's Wedding Attire

British wedding habits have changed rapidly during the last few years, and this evolvement continues into 2017.

- The average wedding now costs over £16,000
- The trend for cupcakes is falling out of favour, being replaced with trends like cheese towers.
- Purple is the most popular bridesmaids dress colour
- 18% of newlyweds now honeymoon in the UK and 34% in Europe

These changes are also reflected in what the groom is opting to wear on his big day. At The Cotswold Tailor we have noticed big shifts in demand in both our hire department and our bespoke tailoring service, when it comes to wedding suits.

In 2015 we rented out not a single frock coat, and demand for morning coats fell significantly. When we did rent out a morning coat, more often than not the groom has opted to move away from traditional wedding waistcoats, and instead replaced these with tweed (*see picture right*).

Noticeably with both my bespoke and hire wear clients, there has been a shift towards: more tailored, three piece, slim-fit, lounge suits, particularly brighter blue shades. With many of my bespoke clients pointing out the benefits of getting frequent use out of the lounge suit post the wedding.

Possibly the biggest trend, however, has been in the rising popularity of tweed. As country/natural themed weddings have grown in popularity so too has the demand for both three piece tweed suits, but also the more relaxed look of a pair of chinos paired with tweed waistcoats and tweed jacket. (*see picture right*)

This look has become so popular that in 2016 we launched an entire new hire wear range dedicated to tweed.

Peter York

Professional Master of Ceremonies

Toastmaster & Civil Celebrant

Weddings are occasions of great joy—and enormous pressure. Few couples have the opportunity to learn from experience. There is only one chance to get it right.

A Toastmaster can help relieve the pressure lending an air of quiet professionalism and making sure everything goes exactly as planned. Tact and a gift for seeing potential problems before they arise are just two of the reasons that a Toastmaster's skill can prove invaluable at any Wedding large or small.

On your wedding day, you do not want to be answering questions about timings or seating arrangements. Peter York will be on hand to deal with all the questions and will act as a point of contact between you and your venue. There is nothing more stressful than having to obtain the attention of guests or directing people in the right direction. Toastmasters are fully practiced at making announcements when calling guests to the Wedding Breakfast, introducing speeches, cutting of the cake and first dance. Toastmasters are always happy to help in advising the content and duration of speeches

Your Toastmaster will also serve as the link when talking to Entertainers, Photographers etc.

A Professional Toastmaster will ensure both the correct procedure and good communications, transforming any event into a memorable occasion

Toastmasters General Council

E: peter.yorktoastmaster@gmail.com

W: www.peteryork-mc.co.uk

T: 07831 773575

PETER YORK

Founder President of Executive Guild of Toastmasters and Town Criers

Professional Toastmaster

Tel: 01264 335405 Mobile: 07831 773575

www.peteryork-mc.co.uk

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*You are warmly invited to join us for an **exclusive tour of three of our Wedding Venues on 27 September 2017**. The **tour is free** and available to anyone planning a wedding: whether for yourself or a family member.*

*This is a great opportunity to sample the wonderful hospitality and catering we have to offer. We will visit the **Ashmolean Museum** for morning coffee and cake, **Rhodes House** for pre-lunch drinks and **St Hilda's College** for a three course lunch.*

Places are extremely limited so please don't delay – find out more and reserve your place at ***www.conference-oxford.com/about/weddings***

Whatever event you wish to organise – conference, meeting, dinner, Christmas party or wedding, we will be happy to help you find the perfect place amongst our 63 University and College venues, contact us today on **01865 276 190** or email us on **enquiries@conference-oxford.ox.ac.uk** or visit:

www.conference-oxford.com

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ADVERTORIAL

Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Paul King, Head of April King Legal

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Oxfordshire Guardian which is available by calling

01865 593081

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm,
Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

You can also email **info@aprilking.co.uk** or visit www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack

April King Legal

April King has 20 offices across the Midlands.
Your local office is: Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7HT

Advertising Feature

Who Cares?

Have you ever considered how rewarding it could be to work in the area of social care?

As September approaches, families across the county are preparing for the new term: small children are heading off to school for the first time in crisp new uniforms, and older children moving upwards through the years and even leaving for college. It's a time of change for many.

There are some changes here at Day and Nightcare Assistance too, and it's always sad to see team members leave us, even when we know how excited they are to be moving to the seaside.

This month, however, we're very proud to wave goodbye to several of our care workers! This is because, having enjoyed their time supporting clients in the community, they are moving on to opportunities in which they will continue to use the experience and skills they have developed working with us, and we wish them the very best in their onwards careers as a paramedic, in nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, as well as within managerial roles in the social care sector.

Many people enjoy looking after and helping others, yet many feel that they didn't make the most of their time in school and have missed their chance to have a fulfilling career based on these caring values. Fortunately, it is never too late to move into a worthwhile role, and working as a home support worker proves, for many, to be wonderfully heart-warming. As one of our team said recently, 'The best feeling of happiness is when you are happy because you have made somebody else happy'.

'Too often we under-estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment.

These are the smallest acts of caring, which have the potential to turn a life around.'

Care-giving is a constant learning experience and working in social care can also be a very valuable starting point for many roles in the health and social sector. As a care worker with Day and Nightcare Assistance, you can choose to work towards Diplomas in Health and Social Care (Levels 2 and 3) which are great stepping stones if you then want to develop yourself further, into managerial roles within social care or elsewhere. And working as a home support worker is a great way to help support yourself through a degree course or whilst you are working towards other qualification: because we support our clients from seven in the morning until ten at night, we can offer part-time hours to fit around college commitments.

And if you are interested to find out more about any of the opportunities above, please just drop me a line on esther@danacare.co.uk.

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Are you interested in becoming a care-worker, either part-time, full-time or even to live-in, helping older people to stay living comfortably at home?

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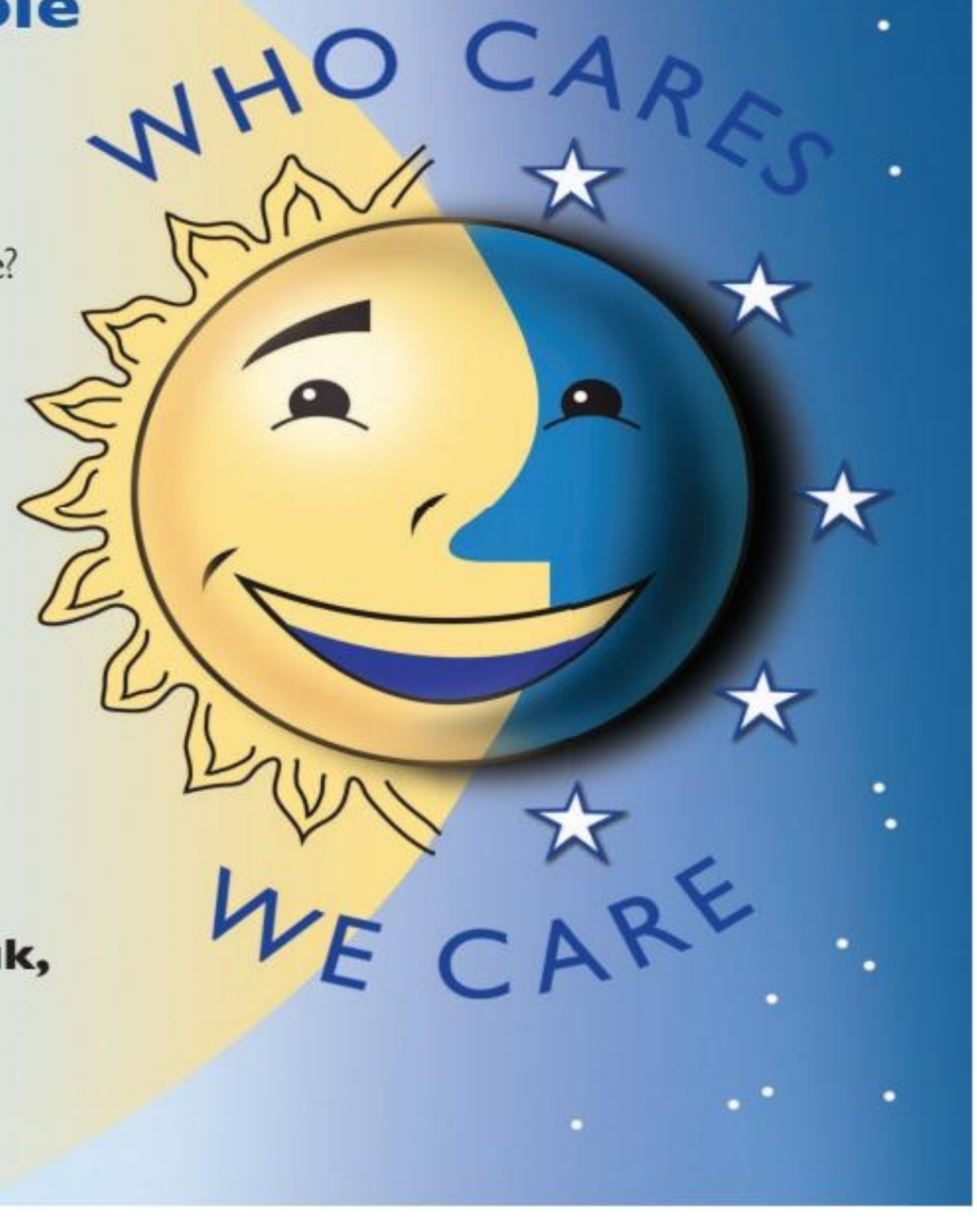

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Peugeot 508 SW GT Line BlueHDi 120 Auto

Good all rounder and not bad looking

By **Tony Yates**

THIS month's road test puts me in the driving seat of the Peugeot 508 SW GT Line. On first appraisal the 508 SW is a great looking estate with some wonderful swooping lines.

This takes me back to when designers actually tried to make a car look different by not copying what the next guy was doing – also judging by the look of the SW - they have managed to push the 'good looking' envelope that little bit more – whilst designing a pretty sweet looking estate - that even the most hard lined Volvo estate buyer would find difficult to ignore.

Of course, it's all done on super computers today and there's probably not a single pencil in sight. But, I would still like to think that a bunch of designers got together one evening in the local pub and really thrashed out what a good looking estate car should look like.

Well judging by what I have seen so far, I think they might have just made the 508 pretty much perfect in that department.

On the road

It's quite firm into the corners - but very well balanced. As you would expect for a GT, it's set very low and when you add low profile tyres at each corner – you start to feel every single bump and pothole, but it is what it is - and that's something that comes with running large rims with performance tyres.

Power & efficiency

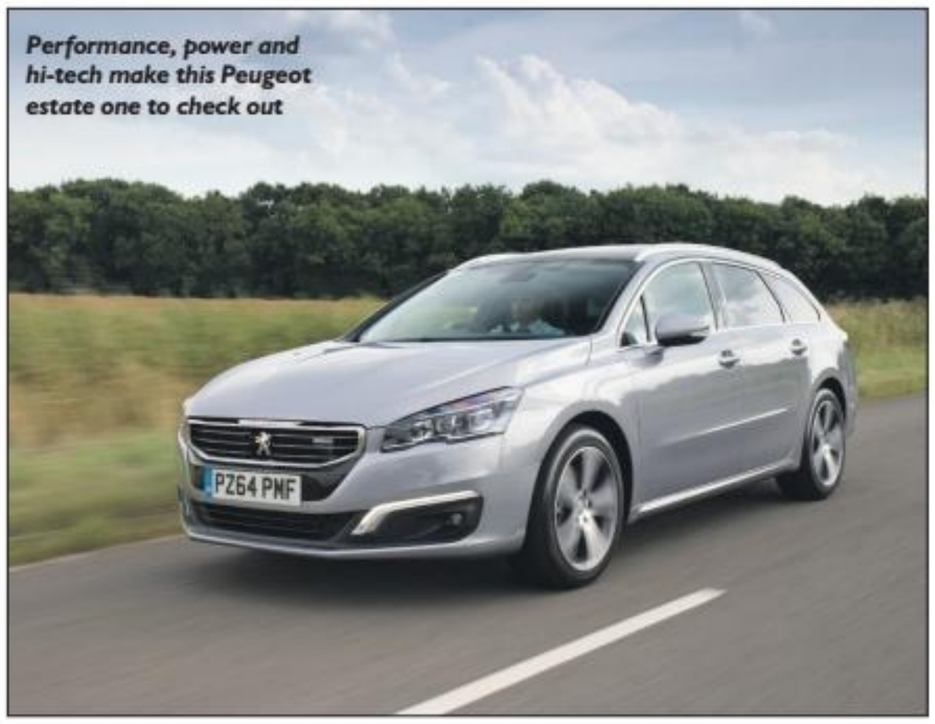
The 508 SW I had on test was powered by a 1560cc diesel engine that has 120BHP on tap, which also happens to boast a very respectable top speed of 123mph, plus a 0-62 time of 11.2 seconds. Fuel consumption is also very good with a combined figure of 67.3 mpg.

A big plus point for this car though is its 300Nm of torque which allows it to pull very well from pretty much any gear thanks to a brilliant 6 speed automatic gearbox that does a proper job of changing up and down the gears at a decent rate with minimal fuss. Then there are the brakes, which feel good and firm and will stop you as good as the best of the best.

Interior & technology

The interior is of a good standard – with lots of chrome fittings and clear dials. But, you are also getting good value for money in terms of standard equipment like; ABS/ESP/EBA, driver & front passenger front and side airbags, iPod/MP3 connection, LED daytime running lights, air conditioning, six speakers, steering wheel-mounted audio control and parking sensors.

Additionally on the inside you also get a tidy amount of media equipment to keep you happy like; The Peugeot Media Sound System which includes a 7" multifunction colour touchscreen with satellite navigation, DAB radio tuner and Bluetooth audio with USB connectivity. There is also the addition of 'GT Line' extra's like; 18" GT Line alloy wheels, full LED headlamps, twin exhaust effect trims and half leather trim with red stitch detail.



Performance, power and hi-tech make this Peugeot estate one to check out

To sum up

I'm going to give the 508 SW four stars in this test, not only because I like its looks, but because I believe it's a good family estate car with bags of extras and a decent engine that's tied to a pretty good automatic gearbox.

Price: From 30,690 OTR

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ORBITAL Jigsaw draper 710 watt 3000 revs cutting capacity wood 80mm mild steel 8mm used just once £30 tel: 01844 352714

BLACK gloss glass TV stand 70cm wide vgc £25 tel: 01869 600672

TWO new yokohama tyres 175/65R14 fitted balanced on rims half price bargain spare due to MOT failure £60 tel: 07514 894299

WANTED Polaroid Pogo mini printer tel: 01235 847338

WANTED Star Wars minifigures. All brought. List with prices. PLEASE TEXT ONLY PLEASE: 07460 775 703

2 volumes of J.M.W Turner text pictures butlin and joll DJ plus others £35 tel: 01235 847338Ashley book of knots dust jacket £13 ono Taschen book man ran photos dust jacket £10 tel: 01235 847338

WANTED Photoshop CS2 Disc and Key tel: 01235 847338

EXERCISE bike EB3 in excellent condition LCD display time speed pulse distance calories etc £40 ono tel: 01865 841556

OLD style bed brass iron no silly offers please no time wasters tel: 01235 201841

BOXED hamina AF 810 35mm compact camera offers tel: 01235 524937

GARDEN shredder 2400w power offers tel: 01235 524937

KITCHEN beech effect 2 doulvory three seater leather sofa very good condition £100 buyer ble 1 single + corner units 3 drawer chest bush electric oven housing unit 3 wall units 3 yr old £300 tel: 01993 359845

IVORY three seater leather sofa very good condition £100 buyer collects tel: 01869 248451

WANTED Board Games. Name game with prices. TEXT ONLY PLEASE: 07460 775 703

WOODEN garden table octagonal shape 43" wide good condition £15 tel: 01865 340375

SUGER craft cake tilting turntable hardly used good condition £15 tel: 01865 340375

BARBEQUE 21"x14" hardly used good condition £10 tel: 01865 340375

LADIES full length "dannimac" quilted lining dark mushroom detachable fur collar size 16 worn once only cost £75 selling for £10 tel: 01865 374136

10 evening hand bags £40 8 pairs vintage clip earrings £25 10 vintage brooches 340 tel: 01865 365096

4 freelander alloy wheels 16" plus tyres £50 tel: 0784 9079051

FLYMO vac 230 lawn mower as new used once £25 tel: 01869 360416

KING-SIZED bed 5ft wooden similar to Barcelona pine bed from bedstores never used £30 tel: 01865 883541

CAMERA 35mm Bonita in case good condition £20 tel: 01235 521066

FUJI instax instant camera as new in case £20 tel: 01235 521066

FREE electronic organ hardly used tel: 01235 850538

RALEIGH Pioneer gent hybrid 21" frame 6 spd mudguard rear carrier £75 ono tel: 07906 608365

GENTS French road bike 22" frame 10 spd gears £75 ono tel: 07906 608365

4 step ladder £6 tel: 01235 817112

FUCHSIAS plants 2 years old big red £2.50 each tel: 01235 817112

MOBILITY walker 2 wheel colour purple vgc £30 tel: 01865 777483

GAS hob new model PR60HOBG prestige £50 tel: 07944 580342

ROOF rails for Vauxhall signum or zafira unused £50 cost £100 tel: 07944 508342

ALLOY wheels with type 215/55 R1693V fit Vauxhall signum or zafira £50 tel: 07944 508342

WANTED Lego Star Wars minifigures. All brought. TEXT ONLY PLEASE: 07460 775703

ROLLATOR Walker R8BL-23 Four wheels padded seat lockable brakes colour blue as new with instructions bargain £40 tel: 01993 200856

TWO bar chairs never used £20 tel: 07774 056880

WASHING machine pro-action new unneeded acquisition cost £170 accept £85 tel: 01865 876086

FREEZER Hotpoint new unused unwanted benefit half price £120 Wheatley oxford tel: 01865 876086

TWO crown chimney pots size 35 inches high very old but in v.g.c collectors item £50 each tel: 01235 510161

RALEIGH ladies upright cycle 21 speeds 26 inch wheels cables breaks blue and jade colour frame v.g.c £15 tel: 01235 510161

POWER station 6 in 1 air compressor for all cars, m/cycles boats etc. Argos £85 sell for £50 used once tel: 01865 841336

WANTED Pokemon cards. All considered. TEXT ONLY PLEASE: 07460 775703

LADY'S coat sized 12 cashmere wool ex. Con grey colour £30 tel: 01865 841336

TRAVEL iron (prestige) New £5 tel: 01865 841336

TRAVEL kettle with cups ex.con on £5 tel: 01865 841336

CHILD'S single folding bed unmarked only four uses £30 tel: 01235 512975

GARDEN lawn moss and weed rake wheel driven spring tynes effective and keep fit buyer collects Woodstock tel: 07789 632115

PATIO set table 4 chairs parasol as new cost £543 (wyvale) £80 the lot buyer collects Woodstock area tel: 07789 632115

GARDEN shredder alco 1100w 25mm cut good condition and low hours £35 tel: 07789 632115

B&D leaf blower & VAC £25 buyer collects tel: 07789 632115

SEVEN boxed sets of DVD series 1 to 7 of series 24 hours £10 tel: 01869 242487

PAIR ladies shoes clarks cloudsteppers new black size 7 £5 tel: 01491 838988

WALL unit teak effect 6ft x 5ft glass doors with drawers good condition £20 tel: 01993 883229

COFFEE table oak effect 3ft long £4 tel: 01993 883229

FLAVEL 4 ring electric cooker 3 months old very good condition £80 ono tel: 01865 400237

WOODEN dining table and 4 chairs good condition £80 ono tel: 01865 400237

65TH birthday glass pint mug never used still in box as new £30 tel: 01865 340878 (after 4pm)

WANTED Fantasy and Sci-fi board games to buy. List game and price. All considered. TEXT ONLY PLEASE: 07460 775703

LOVELY three row crystal bead necklace boxed with receipt dated Sept 2001 never worn £30 only tel: 01865 340878 (after 4pm)

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LOVELY crystal four tier brooch by butler and Wilson ideal for evening dress £30 tel: 01865 340878 (after 4pm)

CHARLES and Diana wedding wedgewood one pint china mug. Still boxed £25 tel: 01865 340878 (after 4pm)

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CIGARETTE cards for sale lots sets spare small cards and large sets please call Roys-ton tel: 01865 882926

CRICKET bat pads and gloves shoes size 8 thigh pads trousers 36" waist 29" leg no longer required £50 the lot tel: 01865 247453

MOUNTFIELD emblem rotary mower 15" cut with grass bag £40 tel: 01865 891271

BOXED set 14 colin dexter books £10 port-meiron bowl h12cm w19cm £15 tel: 01235 521066

BATH white 1700 x 700 enemel antislip han-dles taps immaculate also tyford toilet com-plete white and towel radiator £25 the lot tel: 01865 750087

DOUBLE king size bed 5ft wooden similar to Barcelona pine from bedstores never used £40 tel: 01865 883541

FOLDING w/chair small wheels hardly used cost £175 now £60 I want to sell to someone who needs it. NO TRADERS tel: 07491 889290

GARAGE SALE Sun-day 20 August 11am to 4pm behind ridgeway cycles Wantage New-bury street: collecta-bles yoyos kids jeans glass wear teddies tel: 07491 889290

JERRY cans two heavy duty clasp filler caps 5 gallon £7 each. 1 gallon cans £2 each tel: 01865 750087

NILFISK (George) car-pet shampooer vacuum cleaner plus spare bags very little used £40 tel: 01865 750087

ANTIQUE brass fire fender 58in wide by 13in deep by 5in high ideal for fireplace in period house good condition £35 tel: 01865 750087

GARDEN tools hedge cutter S/Jackson forks rake hoe lawn grass edge trimmer various H/Tools £10 hosepipe long £6 tel: 01865 750087

FOLDING chairs four chrome and tan £25 Heritage bath new white £15 tel: 07849 079051

WANTED to buy. Old wooden treasure tables, please call 01865 890080

SHOT gun cabinet metal holds 4 guns double locks £15 01491 652247

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LARGE box of assorted glasses. Ideal car boot, £20 only. No offers 01865 340878 after 4pm

GEORGIAN three piece condiment set. with tray. Grenadier silver smiths, £20 only 01865 340878 after 4pm

KING george and queen mary jubilee mug. Copland Spode, £4 only 01865 340878 after 4pm

DANDY beans "Roger the dodger" small fig-ure. collector item £7 only 01865 340878 after 4pm

COFFEE pot glass ornaments very unu-sual £20 no offers 01865 340878 after 4pm

SET of seven mason blue wall plates still boxed, £20 only 01865 340878 after 4pm

TWO black + shirts. Painted with Joseph and amazing colour dream coat. £10 only 01865 340878 after 4pm

MOTOR bike jacket black safety pads as new, small size £25 01491 839509

TELEVISION 12v also 230v 15" approx for caravan with remote lit-tle used from new £35 079336 88712

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MORRIS Oxford and Cowley series two and three work shop man-ual genie BMC clean condition £10 07834 506180

STAIR gate white good condition £10 tel: 01993 705932Gents shirts and jackets Medium never worn £15 each one buy one get one free tel: Oxford 361363

LADIES dresses and jackets and shirts size 14 never worn £10 each buy one get one free tel: Oxford 361363

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WHEELCHAIR 4 small wheels collapsible for car boot hardly used good condition cost £130 sell for £50 tel: Oxford 361363

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BINOCULARS large size mark Scheffel make number 4190 field 50 with carry case excellent condition only £15 tel: 01865 873137

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HISTORY of rock 122 magazines in binders £25 tel: 07849 079051

LADDER two section extension 6m height 22 rungs aluminium £50 tel: 01235 819711 or 07866 082610

TRAILER 5'L x 4'W x 1'6"D steel and wood with lights good con-dition £200 offers tel: 01235 819711 or 07866 082610

GRASS trimmer 350w in good working order £10 tel: 01235 819711 or 07866082610

30 TY beany babies good condition £1 each will separate tel: 01993 705932

WANTED modern board games (Talisman etc). List with price. TEXT ONLY PLEASE 07460 775703

MERRY Tiller titan motivator 5hp very good condition phone evening only tel: 01993 850866

GARDEN fork new £14 tel: 01865 777483

GARDEN relaxing chair £10 tel: 01865 777483

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FLYMO easy cut 500CT cordless with charger w/o £10 tel: 01865 891271

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FLYMO hedge trimmer battery with charger used once £40 ONO tel: 01865 872849

SET of bowls BIBC NOD Super grip size 5 £25 tel: 01865 777483

DOUBLE king size bed 5ft wooden very similar to Barcelona pine bed from UK Bedstores never used £80 Tel: 01865 883641

GOLD mix two-seater sofa and matching armchair very good condition fire safe £30 buyer collects tel: 01235 848376

HUMAN box £50 early learning centre open front dolls house 3ft x 1ft includes furniture £50 as new tel: 01235 868379

ICEKING three draw upright freezer as new £30 tel: 01235 868379

RALEIGH bike girls age 6-8 £10 tel: 01235 868379

RALEIGH bike boys 15 gears £15 tel: 01235 868379

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CARAVAN towing mirrors £10 tel: 01865 735046

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SUITCASE standard size suitable for any form of travelling good condition £15 tel: 01865 875639

LOVELY cabbage patch doll very god condition fully dressed £10 Tel: 01865 244254

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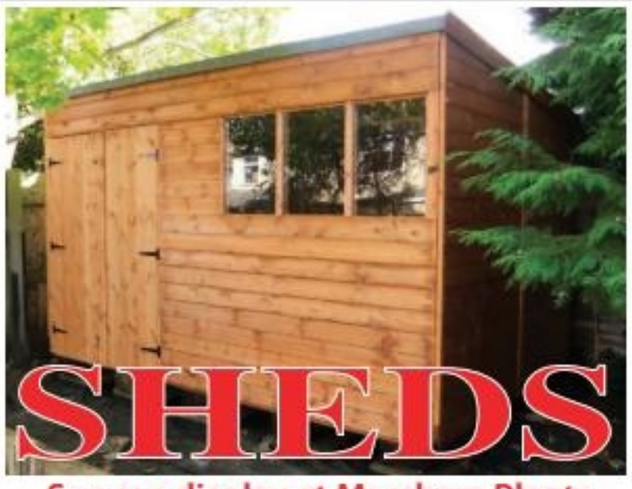

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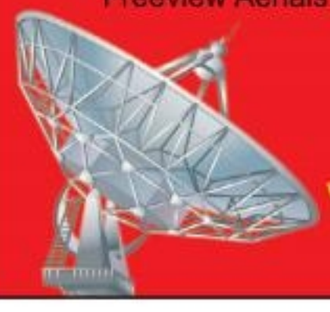

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Sport

Drive through the pack 'like a victory' for Massa

Felipe Massa fought his way through the pack in Belgium on Sunday
Picture: *Williams Martini Racing*

By Adam Flinn

F1

FELIPE Massa described his eighth-place finish at Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix as being "like a victory", having battled through the pack from 16th on the grid.

The Williams driver progressed nicely up the field to pick up an unlikely four points, after the Grove-based team had struggled for pace for much of the weekend.

After a strong start Massa was up to 11th when everyone had made their first pitstops, and it seemed he might fall short of the points-paying positions.

But a collision between the two Force India drivers which brought out the safety car allowed Massa to move up to ninth, which became eighth when Kevin Magnussen went off track at the restart.

Massa said: "I'm very happy with the race. Great start, great overtakes, good pace for the car we struggled with [on Saturday], so I'm really happy and also to be able to keep the cars behind at the end.

"I know eighth place is not a nice position, but the way I drove the car and the way I drove in this race, it was definitely like a victory and I'm so happy."

Massa's team-mate Lance Stroll also produced a better showing on Sunday, but just missed out on points as he finished 11th.

Stroll said: "Certainly this was better than Saturday, but we just missed out on the points, which was unfortunate.

"I had damage at the end when overtaking Magnussen at the safety car restart. I broke a piece of the front wing and just had to survive until the end."

After their summer break, the races come thick and fast with the drivers not having to wait long for the next race, the Italian Grand Prix takes place this weekend at Monza.

Another big chunk of points for Hulkenberg

F1

NICO Hulkenberg matched his and Renault's best result of the season with a sixth-place finish at Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

The German was involved in an exciting battle with Fernando Alonso and Esteban Ocon in the early laps, before getting ahead and managing to pull away.

From then on he was relatively untroubled, benefitting from Max Verstappen's retirement to move up a spot and secure his third sixth-place result of the season.

Hulkenberg said: "It was a solid day, I'm happy and pleasantly surprised.

"The car felt better than Saturday and we were the fourth quickest team out there again, which allowed us to finish in the top-six."

There was more bad luck for Jolyon Palmer though, after a gearbox penalty following qualifying left him languishing down the order.

Palmer had been the quicker Renault driver for most of the weekend, but the penalty put him out of position on old tyres and he could only recover to finish 13th.

However there was a nice surprise for Haas in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix as Romain Grosjean finished in an unexpected seventh place.

The Banbury-based team hadn't been expecting to get much out of the weekend, not thinking the track would suit their car.

Grosjean made steady progress from 11th on the grid and found himself running ninth when the two Force Indias collided, elevating him another two spots and securing six points.

It could have been a double points finish for Haas, but a mistake for Kevin Magnussen off the safety car restart dropped him out of contention.

Magnussen locked up his brakes approaching the final chicane and only narrowly missed piling into the back of his team-mate, and ended up overshooting the corner.

This destroyed the tyres, and Magnussen had to make an extra pitstop for fresh rubber and could only climb back up to 15th.

Disappointed to miss out on points at Silverstone

Moto GP

BRADLEY Smith admitted he was heartbroken after missing out on the points at his home race at Silverstone.

The MotoGP rider from Forest Hill was staring down the barrel of a points-scoring finish at the halfway point of Sunday's race but lost confidence with the grip of the hard front Michelin and ended up in 17th place.

Smith, who last week confessed he needed to start delivering results to keep his Red Bull KTM slot for next season, crossed the line 14 seconds adrift of the points.

The 26-year-old said: "Obviously it's heartbreaking to finish a British GP like this but the intent was there from me and all of the boys in the garage but now we focus on Misano [San Marino on September 10].

"I had a great start and was super-aggressive in the opening laps to get myself up the order.

"Then as the race progressed, maybe the tyre choice wasn't the best but with the temperature being a little higher than before maybe we looked at what the others were doing too much."

Team-mate Pol Espargaro came home in 11th spot to collect five points following a strong qualifying performance from the KTM RC16 bike.

Not even Esteban Garcia, Smith's new crew chief, could improve the former Tech 3 driver's fortunes.

Nevertheless, team manager Mike Leitner focused on the positives.

He said: "The weekend was good especially as we've never been here before and because Silverstone is very difficult with all the bumps, fast and tight corners too.

"Bradley started with his new crew chief and that in itself isn't easy to start together at this track but it went well. We don't see the results quite yet but it will grow."

Smith squandered a promising position to finish 17th at Silverstone
Picture: *Gold and Goose*

InBrief

Success continues

JASON Plato's upturn in form continued as he claimed his fourth British Touring Car Championship podium finish of the season at Rockingham on Sunday.

The Oxford-based driver finished third in race three for Team BMR, to add to solid points scored from 10th and fourth-place results in races one and two.

Race one was a fairly quiet affair for Plato as he finished where he started, but was able to make up ground in race two as he fought through the pack to finish fourth.

And after starting fourth for race three, Plato was able to take advantage of a collision between Rob Collard and Jack Goff in the late stages to pinch the final podium spot.

It was a good day all round for Team BMR, with Plato's team-mates James Cole and Ash Sutton each getting a race win, and the latter taking over at the top of the championship.

Plato said: "We've had a great day, a brilliant day for the team.

"James' win early on was epic and for Ash to get another win and a podium was perfect for him, and we've got to do the best job we can for him until the end of the season.

"If I can't win, the next best thing is for Ash to, and we're going to help him do that."

Plato is up to 10th in the championship standings with two rounds remaining, the next at Silverstone on September 17.

Steady Eddie

EDDIE Pepperell put in a solid performance to finish in a tie for 28th at the Made in Denmark tournament over the weekend.

The Abingdon golfer finished on seven under par after producing a steady run of scores over the four days.

He started the tournament with a level par 71, following that with a 69 on Friday that included an eagle and three birdies.

Another eagle on Saturday saw Pepperell post 68 on Saturday, before hitting 69 on Sunday without dropping a shot.

He finished 12 shots behind tournament winner Julian Suri, who won by an impressive four shots over David Horsey.

Stars ready to go

OXFORD City Stars are raring to get back on the ice after finalising their roster ahead of the 2017/18 campaign.

Head coach Kenny Redmond completed his squad ahead of the NIHL South 2 opener at Guildford Phoenix on September 16 with the addition of three players and a coach.

Oxford-born Josh Oliver has re-signed for another year, while youngsters Will Harrison and Theo Bundock have been promoted to the first team.

Scott Gough, who made 232 appearances for the Stars between 1985 and 2006 across a number of spells, has joined the backroom staff as assistant first team coach.

A long-term friend of Redmond, Gough was voted last year as the club's all-time legend.

Playing 'nice' football is not enough

By George Welch

Oxford City

NOT even a mini early-season shake-up could turn Oxford City's fortunes around as the Hoops picked up a solitary point from the bank holiday weekend fixtures.

They drew 1-1 at home to Welling United on Saturday and lost 3-2 at newly-promoted Chippenham Town on Monday.

Following an inquest into the 7-1 embarrassment at Dartford the previous week, City boss Mark Jones reshuffled his pack by recruiting two and cutting two players from his squad ahead of the weekend.

In came goalkeeper and Oxford United loanee Jack Stevens and Forest Green Rovers midfielder Rob Sinclair. Going the other way were keeper Craig Hill and defender Guri Demuria.

But Jones couldn't hide his disappointment in the wake of his side's fourth defeat of the National League South season on Monday.

He said: "It's quite raw. It's never easy to take.

"We've got a very disappointed dressing room in there again but we've got to defend better as a team.

"I'm not going to criticise just our back players – everything we do, we do together and at times we're far too open as a team.

"We don't want to just be a nice footballing side that finishes 14th/15th place because nobody wants that – at the moment that's what we're in danger of doing."

A debut goal from Sinclair on the stroke of half time looked to have secured all the points against Welling on Saturday.

But with just 10 minutes remaining, skipper Lee Henderson conceded a penalty and was sent off following an incident with Jack Parkinson.

Bradley Goldberg stepped up and confidently dispatched the penalty to earn a share of the spoils.

And two days later City were conceding even more goals.

A Henderson own goal gave Chippenham an early lead but Oxford were back on level terms on 10 minutes through a classy Zac McEachran free kick.

James Guthrie restored the Bluebirds' lead on 17 minutes and Andy Sandell extended that margin midway through the second half.

Matt Paterson converted from the spot on 65 minutes but Chippenham hung on for maximum points.

City host Braintree Town on Saturday.

Oxford City players celebrate Zac McEachran's goal against Chippenham Town, but there wasn't much else to celebrate for the Hoops over the bank holiday weekend
Picture: Michael Allen

Puritans extend winning run with 5-0 thrashing

Banbury United

BANBURY United made it five wins out of five after following up their 2-1 victory against Bishop's Stortford on Saturday with a 5-0 demolition of Dunstable Town on Monday.

The Puritans sit top of the Southern Premier League with Kettering Town as the only two sides to have won every game so far this season.

Saturday's match was a hard-fought affair, with Bishop's Stortford taking the lead on 33 minutes as Jason Williams fired past Jack Harding from a tight angle.

It didn't take long for Banbury to get back on level terms however, and five minutes later as Charlie Hawtin set up Jefferson Louis to strike low into the far corner of the net.

And after both sides had chances to take the lead, Banbury finally did so 20 minutes from the end as substitute Ravi Shamsi pulled off a sensational bicycle kick to secure the three points.

Monday's match away to Dunstable was much more one-sided, as the Puritans bossed proceedings throughout the match.

It took a while for them to score though, having to wait until the 37th minute before Louis fired home from six yards out.

The second came six minutes after the break as Tom Winters produced a fierce shot from inside the penalty area into the far corner.

And the floodgates opened with just over 20 minutes remaining as Darren Pond, Conor McDonagh and then Pond again scored to complete the rout.

Banbury turn their attention to the first qualifying round of the FA Cup this Saturday, where they host Tiverton Town.

Green brace secures points for Abingdon

Hellenic round-up

NEWLY-PROMOTED Abingdon United extended their unbeaten run to five matches as they continue to enjoy life in the Hellenic Premier Division.

The Division 1 West champions had to share the points in a 2-2 draw at Burnham on Saturday but secured all three of them with a 1-0 win over Fairford Town at the Northcourt on Monday.

Joe Green hit a brace against Burnham while Joe Hartley scored the only goal of the game against Fairford as United climbed up to an encouraging fifth in the table.

Wantage Town's campaign is finally up and running after chalking up back-to-back wins over the bank holiday weekend.

After losing two of their opening three matches, the Freds propelled themselves into the top half of the table with victories over Ascot United and Thatcham Town.

Ryan Markham, Jack Dunmall and Stephen Robertson all scored first half goals as visiting Wantage beat Ascot 3-1 on Saturday.

And Steve Alman's side followed that up with an impressive 2-1 win over Thatcham Town at Alfredian Park to end the visitors' 100 per cent record.

Mark James opened the scoring on 15 minutes but the Kingfishers struck back with 14 minutes remaining through Shane Cooper-Clarke.

Jack Powell sealed all three points for Wantage with a well-crafted goal in the final minute.

Elsewhere, Oxford City Nomad's miserable season continued as they conceded at least two goals for the fourth game running.

The Oxford City development side lost 2-0 at Flackwell Heath on Saturday but collected a point in a 2-2 draw with Brackley Town Saints two days later.

Joe Green scores from a corner against Burnham
Picture: *Chris Janes*

Railwaymen back on track after two weekend wins

Didcot Town

DIDCOT Town are up to second the in the Evo-Stik South West league after chalking up two wins over Cirencester and Kidlington.

The Railwaymen were on track for a draw away against Cirencester on Saturday before substitute Seth Humphries popped up with a stoppage time winner to claim a 2-1 victory.

Diddy had fallen behind in the 19th minute when Alan Griffin spectacularly volleyed home Jack Watt's flick from the edge of the area.

This seemed to wake Diddy up and they equalised with their first real opportunity with Louis Joyce volleying on the half hour mark.

In what was a very open game, both sides continued to attack but in the 90th minute, Humphries was released and ran towards goal before firing the ball into the roof of the net.

At home on Monday, Didcot scraped past local rivals Kidlington 1-0 with George Reid claiming a 77th minute winner.

Kidlington had gone into the Diddy game on the back of a narrow 3-2 home reverse to Bristol Manor Farm, despite taking the lead.

Darius Browne and Eric Odhiambo were the scorers but the Farmy Army scored a 95th minute winner.

Elsewhere, North Leigh picked up their first win of the season with a 2-1 home win over Salisbury on Saturday. But the winning feeling was fleeting as they lost 3-2 at Evesham United on Tuesday.

In the Evo-Stik South East, Thame United were badly beaten in their two fixtures.

They fell to a 4-2 away loss at Hayes & Yeading on Saturday and on Monday, a 5-0 defeat at home by AFC Dunstable ended their miserable weekend.

Results around the county

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 26 August
Oxford City 1-1 Welling United

Monday 28 August
Chippenham Town 3-2 **Oxford City**

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 26 August
Banbury United 2-1 Bishop's Stortford

Monday 28 August
Dunstable Town 0-5 **Banbury United**

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 26 August
Hayes & Yeading United 4-2 **Thame United**

Monday 28 August
Thame United 0-5 AFC Dunstable

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 26 August
Cirencester Town 1-2 **Didcot Town**
Kidlington 2-3 Bristol Manor Farm
North Leigh 2-1 Salisbury

Monday 28 August
Didcot Town 1-0 Kidlington

Tuesday 29 August
Evesham United 3-2 **North Leigh**

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 26 August
Ascot United 1-3 **Wantage Town**
Burnham 2-2 **Abingdon United**
Flackwell Heath 2-0 **Oxford City Nomads**

Monday 28 August
Abingdon United 1-0 Fairford Town
Oxford City Nomads 2-2 Brackley Town Saints
Wantage Town 2-1 Thatcham Town

Sport

Every point will count come the end of the season

By George Welch

Ryan Ledson and Junior Brown battle for the ball and below, Jon Obika cracks a shot into the side netting

Christian Ribeiro gets away from Junior Brown to cross the ball and right, Gino van Kessel wins the ball ahead of James Bolton
Pictures: *Steve Daniels*

BEFORE the League One campaign kicked off at the start of August, Pep Clotet, the Oxford United boss, highlighted the importance of picking up points even when playing poorly.

He said the most important thing he wanted to install into his players was the ability to convert some of last season's 17 defeats into draws.

If the Spaniard can do that, the theory goes, then United, who fell four points short of the League One play-offs last campaign, will be competing with three other teams for a place in the second tier come May.

After 46 games, depending on how the season goes, the former Swansea City and Leeds United No.2 could point to Saturday's share of the spoils against Shrewsbury Town as an illustration of his attitude.

Clotet admitted his team weren't at their best against the Shrews but was keen to focus on the positives and, in particular, the point that keeps them in the top third of the early-season table.

He said: "We are all disappointed with the result when you don't take all the points at home.

"But at the same time we know enough about the game to know that every point counts and every point matters. At the end of the season little points make the difference and to take five draws instead of five losses that means five more points and that means a lot."

Shrewsbury have been the surprise package of the season so far and were looking to make it four wins from four at the Kassam Stadium.

Clotet, who was expecting a difficult afternoon, added: "It was a tough game for both sides.

"They were coming here on a really good moment after a strong start in the league and they thought they could get the win.

"We made it as difficult as we could and, even though we did not have a good game, we managed to take a point.

"It's disappointing because you don't win but at the same time you take a point because it's a point when you have a bad game."

The U's head to MK Dons on Saturday.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Peterborough United	4	8	12
2	Wigan Athletic	4	6	10
3	Shrewsbury Town	4	3	10
4	Charlton Athletic	4	4	9
5	Fleetwood Town	4	3	9
6	Scunthorpe United	4	5	8
7	Oxford United	4	4	7
8	Blackpool	4	1	7
9	Bradford City	4	1	7
10	Blackburn Rovers	4	1	6
11	Bristol Rovers	4	-1	6
12	Doncaster Rovers	4	0	5
13	Walsall	4	0	5
14	Portsmouth	4	-1	5
15	Southend	4	-4	5
16	AFC Wimbledon	4	-1	4
17	Bury	4	-3	4
18	Plymouth Argyle	4	-3	4
19	Rotherham United	4	0	3
20	MK Dons	4	-4	3
21	Gillingham	4	-2	2
22	Rochdale	4	-3	2
23	Oldham Athletic	4	-6	0
24	Northampton Town	4	-8	0

United celebrate the joy of six in cup

Stevenage 2

Harry Beautyman 2, Alex Samuel 82

Oxford United 6

James Henry 30, Rob hall 43 & 52, Jon Obika 50, Joe Rothwell 55, Jack Payne 64

Attendance: 799 (152 away)

OXFORD United laid down the gauntlet after kicking off their Checkatrade Trophy campaign with a shower of goals in a 6-2 win at Stevenage on Tuesday.

The U's overcame a sluggish start to blow their League Two opposition away and win in style by recording their biggest away win since 1962.

A Rob Hall brace and strikes from James Henry, Joe Rothwell, Jon Obika and Jack Payne gave United the perfect start in a competition in which they have reached Wembley for the last two seasons.

But Oxford gave their hosts a head start in an underwhelming opening half hour for the U's as Harry Beautyman tucked home within 20 minutes.

The Yellows upped their tempo in response and went in at half time ahead thanks to smart finishes from Henry (30) and Hall (43).

Chris Day, Stevenage's 42-year-old goalkeeper, is certain to have woken up with back pain the following morning after conceding a flurry of goals in the second half.

Obika (50), Hall (52) and Rothwell (55) put the game to bed in a devastating five-minute spell.

A first for the club for Payne (64) made it 6-1 to United, who looked menacing every time they attacked.

United fans were enjoying themselves and sang 'the scores on his back' to Day, Stevenage's number 16.

But striker Alex Samuel ruined the fun when he rifled a consolation into the roof of the net on 82 minutes.

Southern Group G table-toppers United are next in Checkatrade Trophy action at home to Brighton and Hove Albion's academy side on October 3.

Guardian Sport

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U's rue giving Shrews a draw

Gino van Kessel turns the ball in to give United the lead
Picture: *Steve Daniels*

By **George Welch**

Oxford United 1

Gino van Kessel 75

Shrewsbury Town 1

Stefan Payne 83

Attendance: 7,210 (442 away)

OXFORD United threw away a 1-0 lead in the final 10 minutes to be held by Shrewsbury Town in a frustrating game at the Kassam Stadium.

The U's were sloppy throughout and were penned back for large periods by the Shrews, who were one of four teams going into the weekend on maximum points.

Gino van Kessel poked the home side ahead against the run of play with 15 minutes remaining following a goalmouth scramble.

United upped the tempo and were more threatening after taking the lead – but the Shrews equalised eight minutes later through substitute Stefan Payne.

Pep Clotet's side were fortunate not to fall behind just after the hour when the assistant referee deemed a looping Carlton Morris effort not to cross the line when the ball struck the underside of the bar and bounced away.

And Payne squandered the chance to take maximum points back to Shropshire after missing a gilt-edged chance in stoppage time.

Both sides cancelled each other out early on, causing a shortage of goalmouth action in the first half.

Despite this, both teams screamed for first half penalties within 60 seconds of each other.

First, there were cries for a United spot kick when an overlapping Christian Ribeiro crossed dangerously into the box and defender Mike Williamson fell to the ground.

Town went straight up the other end and were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty when Simon Whalley went down after receiving close attention from Ricardinho.

Shrewsbury wasted the best chances of the first half and the U's had stopper Simon Eastwood to thank when he kept Jon Nolan out at his near post before Morris blazed over from an Alex Rodman knockdown.

The Yellows remained lacklustre in the second period and struggled at times to get out of their own half.

Salop penned Oxford's backline further and further back and Nolan fired a warning shot, hacking a left footed effort high and wide.

But United woke up on the hour following the introduction of Joe Rothwell and Jon Obika.

U's fans finally had something to shout about when the latter and Ryan Ledson both tested Dean Henderson in the Shrewsbury goal.

The visitors could have taken the lead on 65 minutes when Morris raced through to lob the ball over Eastwood only to see the ball strike the underside of the bar and bounce away. Loud appeals for a goal from the Shrewsbury faithful fell on deaf ears.

Obika stung the hands of Henderson and, at the other end, Rodman forced Eastwood into a sprawling save as the game opened up.

The breakthrough came on 75 minutes when the Shrews failed to clear a corner and van Kessel prodded home via the post.

But Shrewsbury levelled eight minutes later when Payne found space in the box in a similar scramble following a corner that was not properly cleared.

The substitute then wasted a golden opportunity to snatch maximum points for Town deep into injury time.

Ledson: It takes time but we're getting there

MIDFIELDER Ryan Ledson has tipped Oxford United to find their best form after suffering a late setback against Shrewsbury Town on Saturday.

Standards have been set high after the U's won their opening two League One games of the season but United hung on for the draw, despite taking a 75th minute lead.

Super sub Stefan Payne grabbed his second goal from the bench in as many games to rescue a point for the Shrews.

And the striker could have maintained the visitor's 100 per cent league record deep into stoppage time but the 26-year-old fired wide.

It's not been a bad start for Oxford, who have collected seven points from four games, but Ledson acknowledged the Yellows weren't at their best.

However, the former Everton man, who turned 20 earlier this month, is confident it will all come together for Pep Clotet's men.

He said: "It will take a little bit of time and I think it was the same last year. I don't think we started playing properly, gelling together, until about October.

"It's a long season, people need to remember that, there's 46 games, and every point is going to be vital. If you can't win games then don't lose them."

Ledson, a pivotal figure in the heart of the Oxford midfield, added: "I'm disappointed, because I know what this team is about.

"I watch these players every day in training and for me we should be winning games of football, especially at the Kassam with the influence of our own fans."

He added: "You take seven points from the first four games. If we get three points against MK Dons [on Saturday] away…10 points after five games you are very happy with that."

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